

Mac

FORMAT

All your Apple needs

**ALL-NEW
MAC MINI**

IS IT WORTH £649?

PLUS iPhone 4: how bad
are the reception issues?



> Mac > iPhone > iPad

> Issue 224 August 2010

MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS

**84 PAGES
OF ADVICE!**

The UK's no.1 Mac magazine

**Get started
with iPhoto**



Compare photos with ease

**Make better
iMovie edits**



How to use the Precision Editor

**Create better
documents**



Use Pages' outline view to the full

**THE LATEST KIT
REVIEWED**

- > Apple iPad Wi-Fi + 3G
 - > G-Drive Mobile 500GB
 - > Leica V-LUX 20 camera
- AND MUCH MORE!**



Speed up your old Mac

Open up the hidden power
at the heart of your Mac!

GROUP TEST



Share photos

Six photo sharing sites on test

INVESTIGATED



30 great apps...

Everybody should know about

Get trained

We test One to One training

DISC INSIDE!

- > **Typelt4Me 4.2.1** Let your Mac do half your typing!
- > **Music Mac 2.7** Rip, burn, convert and play music files



techradar.com

AUGUST 2010 £5.99 £6 OUTSIDE UK & ROI



9 771353 851021

08>

The world's only external battery for Apple® MacBooks®, iPhones® and now the iPad!™

Extend MacBook battery life
up to **45 hours!**

"Our favorite brand of
precious-extra-juice-giving
external batteries." - **Gizmodo**

"We're pretty big fans of the HyperMac
external batteries." - **Engadget**



Extend iPad battery life
up to **99 hours!**

External Batteries for the MacBook, iPhone, iPod and iPad



HyperMac Nano
1800mAh
Recharge iPhone **1.5x**
Sleek aluminum casing
Available in **10 colors**



HyperMac Micro
3600mAh
Recharge iPhone **3x** or
Extend iPad's battery life
up to **15 hrs**



HyperMac Mini
7200mAh
Recharge iPhone **6x** or
Extend iPad's battery life
up to **20 hrs**



HyperMac 60Wh
16000mAh
Extend battery life of
MacBook up to **19 hrs**
or iPad up to **34 hrs**



HyperMac 100Wh
27000mAh
Extend battery life of
MacBook up to **26 hrs**
or iPad up to **50 hrs**



HyperMac 150Wh
41000mAh
Extend battery life of
MacBook up to **34 hrs**
or iPad up to **70 hrs**



HyperMac 222Wh
61000mAh
Extend battery life of
MacBook up to **45 hrs**
or iPad up to **99 hrs**



Car Charger
For MacBook
Charge your MacBook
even while you are
on the road

HyperMac is the only external battery and car charger solution that works with all Apple MacBook (Pro/Air) models. Available in 4 different sizes (60~222Wh), the HyperMac battery also powers the iPad, iPhone, iPod and all other USB devices. All HyperMac batteries* now support 10W USB charging which powers the iPad at the same rate as the iPad wall charger.

*Except HyperMac Nano



Order your favorite
→ **COLOR!**

www.hypermac.eu/mf | +31-(0)-26-4720801

HyperMac™

© 2010 Sanho Corporation. Apple, MacBook, iPod, and iPhone are registered trademarks. MagSafe and iPad is a trademark of Apple, Inc. All rights reserved. The MagSafe cable and connector is manufactured by Apple, Inc. and modified to be compatible with HyperMac.

Welcome...

to MacFormat, the UK's No. 1 Mac magazine

>> SUBSCRIBE!



Subscribe to MacFormat to **save 35%** on the newsstand price, and get a LA robe Allure Laptop Sleeve as well. **Turn to page 30 now!**

The iPhone 4 launch is already Apple's most successful, with more than 1.7 million iPhones sold in just three days. Much to everyone's frustration the iPhone sold out almost immediately, leaving thousands of potential buyers stranded. The demand for it has just been incredible, especially as it was released hot on the heels of another huge product launch, the iPad. With so many big Apple launches this year, pictures of massive queues outside Apple Stores are starting to become commonplace.

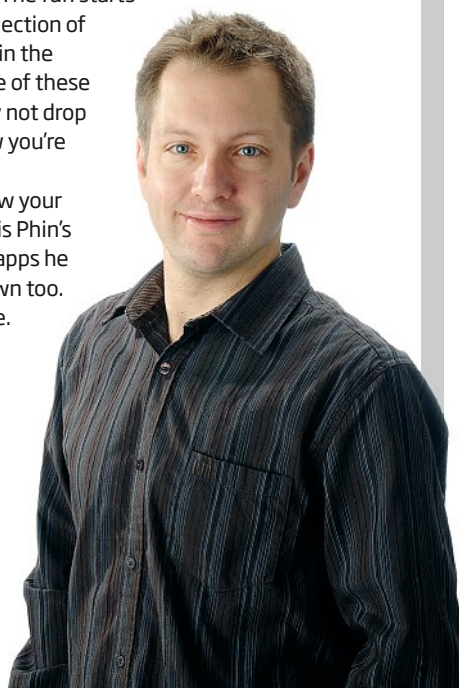
But what about older Apple kit? One of the great things about Macs is their long shelf life. With a little love and attention, your Mac will last you many years yet. This issue, we turn our attention to the things you can do to keep an older Mac in tip-top condition. The fun starts on page 32 with a look at a collection of older Macs that can still kick it in the modern age. Are you using one of these older Macs yourself? If so, why not drop me a line and let me know how you're getting on with it.

Also this issue, I'd like to draw your attention to deputy editor Chris Phin's recommendations for 30 Mac apps he owns and thinks you should own too. There are some real gems here.

See you next month on 18 August for more Mac tips!



Graham Barlow, Editor
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
twitter.com/MacFormat



>> THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS

> Feedback

Your say on everything Apple **p22**

> One to One training

We test Apple's trainers **p26**

> Speed up an old Mac

There's life in the old thing yet **p32**

> How to...

Great tutorials for Mac users **p43**

> Top 30 Mac apps

Mr Phin's personal selection **p70**

> Questions answered

Your Mac problems solved **p76**

>> MEET THE TEAM / YOUR MACFORMAT EXPERTS!

Christopher Phin

Deputy Editor



"Under the bonnet, the big change is an upgrade to Safari's parsing of HTML5, the coming standard for how web pages will be delivered."

Chris on Safari 5 p68

Ian Osborne

Reviews Editor



"Why use a Core 2 Duo at all? Why not make the switch to the newer, more powerful Core-i series chips?"

Ian ponders the various questions that the new Mac mini throws up p86

Christopher Brennan

OS X expert



"Every now and again, the dark underbelly of OS X bubbles up to the surface and this happened to me just the other day."

Chris visits the lost and found department p65

Luis Villazon

Technical wizard



"Rather than trying to decide what the problem is, let's take a step back for a moment and consider what the problem isn't."

Luis tackles your tough Mac problems p76

Craig Grannell

Software guru



"The application's like an advanced calculator crossed with a friendly basic spreadsheet that actually understands plain English."

Craig waxes lyrical about Soulver p98

Mac FORMAT Contents

● NEWS & OPINION ● STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIALS ● LATEST REVIEWS ● MAC BUYERS' GUIDE

» ISSUE AT A GLANCE



» Do more with your Mac today

30 pages of great tutorials for improving your Mac skills **p43**



» Answers to your Mac questions

Start here for some simple solutions to Mac problems **p76**



» Discover the latest Apple kit

Read our verdict on new Apple hardware and software **p83**



» The best Mac & iPod products

Don't buy a new Mac until you've read our Buyers' Guide **p113**



32

Win!
A Mac mini
and a copy of
Printfolio: prizes
worth £825!
See p14



➤ **Photo websites**
We test photo sharing sites **p108**



➤ **Apple training**
We investigate One to One **p26**



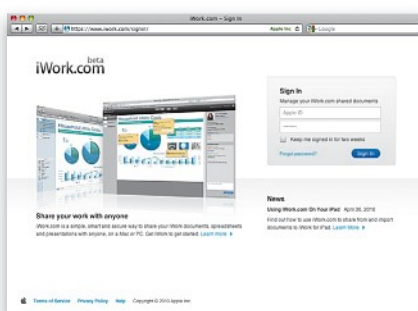
"There are lots of clients for the Mac that hook into the world of Bittorrent, but Transmission is the one I use"

30 MAC APPS THAT DEFINE MR PHIN P70



> Safari 5 is here

What's new in Apple's browser **p68**



> Sync your life

Make Mac order out of chaos **p52**



"Access the internet wherever you can get a mobile signal"

iPAD WI-FI + 3G P107

>> ON THE DISC

> Typelt4Me 4.2.1

Let your Mac do the digit work

> Music Man 2.7

Rip, convert, burn, play audio

> iTunes Controller

Menu bar control of your media



>> Regulars

Start-up

Hot Apple news **6**

Competition

Win a new Mac mini and a copy of Printfolio **14**

Me & My Mac

At home with a Mac **16**

I Use My Mac for...

Writing books **18**

Gadgets

Great new kit **20**

Feedback

Have your say **22**

One-to-One Apple training

We investigate **26**

Subscribe to MacFormat

Never miss an issue again! **30,93**

Speed up an old Mac

There's life in the old thing yet **32**

How to...

Improve Mac skills **43**

30 Mac apps

Apps you shouldn't be without - ever! **70**

Q&A

Problems solved **76**

Reviews

Definitive tests **83**

Buyers' guide

How to choose your new Mac **113**

Mac User Groups

Meet with others **128**

Disc pages

On your disc **129**

>> WHY NOT ALSO TRY?

Like MacFormat? Then you'll love our MacFormat Presents... series of special issues. Turn to page 99 to find out more!



Start up

> NEWS & OPINION > INTERVIEWS > GADGETS > LETTERS

Apple's biggest ever launch

A triumph of design and certainly the best iPhone yet, but problems taint the launch of Apple's mobile product.



More than a million sold... but evidence shows device can have a poor reception

Apple's iPhone 4 is a huge success, with 600,000 sold in advance over 24 hours and up to a million on its launch. Queues outside iPhone retailers in Japan, Germany, France and US for launch morning confirmed demand. In the UK, up to 1,000 people waited outside Regent Street with around half that number standing firm at Buchanan Street, Glasgow – the biggest lines for the launch of any Apple product yet.

The iPhone 4's new design comprises two glass plates that are rimmed with a metal band. Deconstruction experts iFixit claim the display is made from especially tough Gorilla Glass, too.

The iPhone is capable of multitasking, introduces support for folders, and lets you use the *iBook* app for reading a huge variety of titles. There's also the warmly welcomed FaceTime functionality, which lets iPhone 4 users make video calls to each other without using operator minutes.

Pre-launch, reviews were overwhelmingly positive, with the device winning praise for being fast, hosting an

excellent camera, boasting a stunning display and for being a triumph of engineering design. Stephen Fry calls it, "A thing of rare beauty". You'll find our review of the new iPhone 4 on page 84 this issue.

With everything looking so positive, it was almost inevitable the company would hit problems. No activation issues marred the introduction, but consumers quickly noted that the iPhone 4 would drop its

connection if firmly gripped on its lower left-hand side.

Complaints emerged within hours of the device going on sale and quickly grew to an uproar. Thousands were affected.

The *Daily Mail* website even published (and deleted) a

story claiming the iPhone 4 faced a recall – the report was based on a tweet from Fake Steve Jobs.

Apple did release an initial official statement: "Gripping any phone will result in some attenuation of its antenna performance, with certain places being worse than others depending on the placement of the antennas," the company warned. "This is a fact of life for every

>> MORE NEWS



For even more on the Mac, iPod and iPhone visit www.macformat.co.uk

» APPLE IN PICTURES / Present for the President



© Getty Images

wireless phone. If you ever experience this on your iPhone 4, avoid gripping it in the lower left corner in a way that covers both sides of the black strip in the metal band, or simply use one of many available cases."

This was followed by a longer statement on the Apple website entitled Letter from Apple Regarding iPhone 4, which stated: "We have discovered the cause of this dramatic drop in bars, and it is both simple and surprising. Upon investigation, we were stunned to find that the formula we use to calculate how many bars of signal strength to display is totally wrong. Our formula, in many instances, mistakenly displays 2 more bars than it should for a given signal strength. For example, we sometimes display 4 bars when we should be displaying as few as 2 bars. Users observing a drop of several bars when they grip their iPhone in a certain way are most likely in an area with very weak signal strength, but they don't know it because we are erroneously displaying 4 or 5 bars. Their big drop in bars is because their high bars were never real in the first place."

» APPLE IN NUMBERS

100 million

The number of iOS devices sold by early June.

Apple plan to release a software update for all iPhones that will correctly display signal strength. The letter continues, "We have gone back to our labs and retested everything, and the results are the same—the iPhone 4's wireless performance is the best we have ever shipped. For the vast majority of users who have not been troubled by this issue, this software update will only make your bars more accurate. For those who have had concerns, we

apologise for any anxiety we may have caused."

Critics asked how this reception issue made it through Apple's rigorous testing systems. Matt Schlicht, Ustream's product manager, speculates that the problem never

transpired in testing, basing this on the leaked iPhone 4 prototype revealed by Gizmodo in May, which was found inside a case disguising it as an iPhone 3GS.

What impact these problems will have on iPhone 4's market success isn't clear. Pre-launch, Morgan Stanley analyst, Katy Huberty expected Apple to log more than 100 million sales by the end of 2011. Let's wait and see what happens. ●

"The best camera is the one you have with you..."

As if Chris Phin needs another reason to rave about the iPhone.



Apple talk

Who's saying what?

> Steve Jobs

www.apple.com

"I grew up in the US with The Jetsons and Star Trek dreaming about this 'video calling', and it's here now."

Jobs speaks with Jonny Ive using iPhone 4 FaceTime video calling.

> Masayoshi Son

www.softbank.jp/en

"Hundreds of years from now, Leonardo da Vinci and Steve Jobs will be held in the same high regard. He doesn't see his products as just a product. It's as if they are his artwork or something that embodies his own life."

Softbank CEO praises Apple boss.

> AT&T

www.att.com

"iPhone 4 pre-order sales were 10 times higher than the first day of pre-ordering for the iPhone 3GS."

AT&T seems happy.

> Gene Munster

www.piperjaffray.com

"Apple has, in three years, built brand loyalty in the phone market that compels users to upgrade to the latest version and wait in line for up to six hours to pick up their iPhone."

Analysts call it 'mission accomplished'.

Have you heard any great Apple quotes? Email us at macformat@futurenet.com

>> IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Always prepared

Christopher Phin



We're so familiar with the idea of a widget failing to do any one of its many tasks well that we have a phrase for it: jack of all trades and master of none.

It's time to review the whole notion, though. For starters, we have devices such as the iPhone and iPad, which are essentially no more and no less than blank slates onto which developers can project entirely new uses. As Jobs said when he introduced the first iPhone, a big bitmap display with some kind of pointing system means you can make the interface to a particular app change completely in order to be as useful as possible. Now, until we get materials that can dynamically reshape themselves, this isn't quite going to wash; for all the iPhone's chameleon abilities, the fact that whatever hardware is there is rigid means that the transformation isn't complete. (Example: while I understand the design thinking behind the decision, Apple's refusal so far to put a physical camera shutter button on the side of the iPhone means that it's never going to be quite as nice to use as an actual camera.)

"Pick up your iPhone as a sat-nav and email client, and you serendipitously also have a camera with you..."

But while there's only so much you can do with a display and soft buttons, it gets most of the way there, and that's fine. Especially when you begin to realise our behaviour is changing for the better. The thing about, say, an iPhone, is that because you'll load it with apps, you'll have their abilities with you wherever you go.

What's interesting and gratifying is if you have 30 apps doing particular things on your iPhone, you're increasing your chance of remembering any one of them. The best camera is the one you have with you; if you only have a traditional camera, you have to remember to take it with you, but if you've remembered to pick up your iPhone as you walk out the door because you want to use it as a sat-nav and email client, then you also, serendipitously, have a camera with you when you spot something worth shooting.

And that's worth any small imperfections in the interface. ●

No matter how hard he tries, deputy editor Christopher iPhin fails to see the pixels. He blames his age; we just blame his dark soul.



iPod touch, iPhone and iPad users get a new ads system.

© Getty Images

>> ADVERTISING

Keeping your place private

iAds demand your location details

Apple has introduced its brand-new iAds service for iOS developers. It's a service that the company promises will "combine the emotion of TV advertising with the interactivity of internet advertising."

However, whether users actually want more advertising is slightly questionable, but the intention appears sound. Apple CEO, Steve Jobs, claims there's just one simple motive: "to help our developers earn money so they can continue to create free and low-cost apps."

The interactive nature of iAds means an iOS user won't be kicked out of the original app in order to view some badly crafted Flash content. There's no Flash support on the iPhone, and Apple's focus on premium brands means you're unlikely to waste time staring at ads for things you don't particularly like, and then finding yourself needing to manually navigate back to the original app. Apple already has iAd commitments for 2010 totalling more than \$60 million, which represents almost 50%

of the total forecasted US mobile ad spending for the second half of this year. iAds can consist of video or any other multimedia asset.

Preparing for the July launch of iAds, Apple changed iTunes' user agreement, making it very clear that the company intends collecting location-based data about you if you are using an iPhone, iPod touch or iPad. This led to immediate queries

from two US Congressmen who asked Apple: "Given the limited ability of Apple users to opt out of the revised policy and still be able to take advantage of the features of their Apple products, we are concerned about the impact the

collection of such data could have on the privacy of customers."

To opt-out of iAds' tracking system on a device running iOS 4, you must enter the following address into the device's web browser: <http://oo.apple.com>.

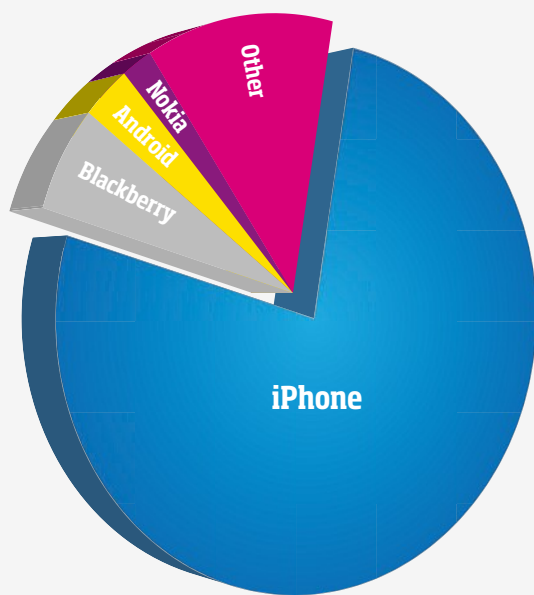
If you have multiple Apple mobile devices running iOS 4, you will need to opt out on each device. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

58.2%

iPhone accounts for this much US mobile browser usage.

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS / Upping the Apple



Piper Jaffray conducted a survey across US Apple Stores on iPhone launch day. They interviewed 608 iPhone 4 purchasers to find out the majority of the most enthusiastic purchasers are upgrading a previous model Apple mobile.

iPhone	77
BlackBerry	6
Android	3
Nokia	2
Palm	0.03
Other	11.97

>> PATENT APPLICATION

Throwing shapes, Apple fashion

Apple's mind-boggling shapeshifting plan

Some believe a user interface is critical to their relationship with Apple's products. If this is you you'll be fascinated by the company's latest patent, which describes objects that can - quite literally - change shape in your hand.

If this sounds like science fiction, that's because it is, but Apple's always there to remind us that the future is now. Remember Apple CEO, Steve Jobs' reference that with FaceTime the iPhone 4 is like a *Star Trek* Communicator?

The patent describes how a flat surface can be comprised of Multi-Touch-savvy material divided into nodes, which can raise or lower depending on what you want the Apple product to do. In one embodiment, you see a circular iPod scroll wheel appear from a flat surface, for example. A 3D keyboard - like a keyboard

on a BlackBerry - is also described. Movable (for example, mechanical or touch-sensing) parts could hide under the surface.

We spoke with Jack Purcher at Patently Apple, and he observes, "This concept could advance and replace the virtual keyboard on the iPad so that it would have the feel of a true physical keyboard and yet vanish when you're done typing a memo, email and so on."

He thinks iPhones equipped with the power to create a 3D keyboard would be a "nightmare on wheels" for competitors.

Purcher, whose website focuses entirely on Apple patents, thinks tech like this could rejuvenate the iPod classic: "The lower section of the iPod could be utilised to morph into several devices," he says.

Realistically, a patent filing does not a product make, but this one is exciting. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

114,000

AT&T security breach reveals data of 114,000 iPad users.

HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: Multi-Touch iMac this year

Apple will introduce a Multi-Touch-capable iMac later this summer, capable of running iOS and OS X apps. But we think it's more likely to appear with OS X 10.7 next year.

HOT: iOS to become new brand

Apple are said to be considering re-branding operating systems under 'iOS': iOS Mobile and iOS Desktop, for example. We think the Apple debate will continue.

NOT: Apple buys Facebook

There is talk of Apple buying Facebook. This won't happen - it would cost too much, and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg is not one to lose control.

NOT: Apple abandons the Mac

With more focus on mobile products, is Apple abandoning the Mac platform? We say no; Apple isn't abandoning its centre, it's simply going beyond it.



Apple on TV

The Mac is ready for its close-up



Fans of popular BBC crime drama, *The Inspector Lynley Mysteries*, must have noticed the team's computer of choice - the Mac. Here's one being used to review old CCTV footage as the team closes in on a killer. **If you've spotted a Mac on television, then email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us all about it!**

>> ACROSS THE POND

Videogame
va-va-voom

Susie Ochs



While I was at E3, the big videogame expo in Los Angeles in June, I saw tons of reasons for Mac gamers to get excited, or at least get a little respect. Upcoming browser-based tactical MMO *Battlestar Galactica Online* will be not only cross-platform but also free to play, with the early demo built on the Unity engine looking slick already.

Speaking of MMOs, cross-platform *Lego Universe* combines the adventure of questing through a multiplayer world with the creative fun of building up your own Lego planet with every kind of brick ever made, and inviting your friends to come visit. The graphics, the polish, and the amount of possibilities blew me away.

So did the new footage from *Portal 2*, Valve's delayed-until-2011 sequel to the coolest action-puzzle mindbender ever. At least we won't have to wait for it longer than anybody else – Valve will release the Mac and PC versions simultaneously over Steam, which has already brought loads of great new games to OS X in its

"I left E3 with a new answer for the people who kept asking why a 'Mac person' would go there in the first place..."

short existence. (Including the cross-platform multiplayer of *Team Fortress 2*, which the *MacLife* staff plays against our readers every Friday afternoon.)

But my stop at the OnLive booth at E3 made me see the wood for the trees. OnLive's "cloud gaming" service, which is on its way to the UK, lets you see and control dozens of big-name games via a browser plug-in. Your Mac doesn't need to meet the game's system requirements, because it's not installed or running locally, but rather at OnLive's data centres. So far they're letting players in gradually and it requires an Ethernet connection (no Wi-Fi), but the service works wonderfully, bringing titles like *Batman: Arkham Asylum* and *Borderlands* to the Mac.

I left E3 with sore feet, a huge smile, and a new answer for my PC-gaming friends and colleagues who kept asking me why "a Mac person" would go there in the first place. To see the future: a more level playing field. ●

Susie Ochs, senior editor of *MacLife*, wants to like *Team Fortress 2*, but the fast-paced first-person action makes her motion sick.

>> IPAD SUCCESS

iPad around the
world in 80 days

iPad sales explode despite limited availability

Apple's iPad is a huge success. Apple sold over 3 million of them in just 80 days following the product's US introduction. Signs are that sales are growing, not slowing. It took 28 days for Apple to sell its first million iPads, 31 days to sell the second million, and 21 days to sell the third.

"People are loving iPad as it becomes a part of their daily lives," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "We're working hard to get this magical product into the hands of even more people around the world."

The first million iPads were purchased in the US. Apple announced the sale of the second million three days after it began selling the device in nine additional countries as the company moves to introduce the device worldwide.

At time of writing there were more than 11,000 iPad apps already available, most usually designated by the expression "HD" within the name. The iPad doesn't yet run iOS 4 – but a version of which is expected to reach the device later this summer.

Apple's success in the tablet market has quashed growth in the netbook industry,

however the iPad isn't alone – tablets powered by the competing Google Android OS are set to reach market later this year. This is driving a massive increase in interest among developers who are keen to build apps for both

platforms. Wall Street analysts now believe the App Store is already generating 1% of Apple's gross profit, raising an estimated \$429 million revenue since July 2008. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

2.3

Apple sells one of its new
iPads every 2.3 seconds.

Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers



iPad is a huge success and so is Apple's share price. It wouldn't take a big rally to put Apple at the top of the charts as the US's most valuable company.

This last fact is the hurdle imagining Apple having a big rally. If it doubled in value it would be worth nearly half a trillion dollars.

When stocks go crazy, investors will look at the stock chart of the price history of

the company to see what might happen next. Often it's just a matter of putting one's investment finger in the air and guessing a direction. Yet right now Apple's share price has been seeing \$20-25 in wild swings. Not once or twice, but six times since May.

This action is for fun-loving speculators. If you have big profits and no portfolio diversification you

should maybe sell down your position. But anyone brave enough to ride Apple from zero to hero is not about to listen to any naysayer; they have \$300 in their sights.

The golden rule of investing is: don't risk what you can't afford to lose. The golden rule of gambling? Quit while you're ahead...

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

>> iPhone

MobileMe & Safari much improved

A new face for MobileMe while Safari gains support

Apple's MobileMe service now has a much-improved interface and a brand-new webmail system that operates even more like the *Mail* app.

Introduced as persistent rumours claimed Apple is considering reintroducing MobileMe as a free service, the new interface features a simplified application switcher interface that replaces the previous row of icons.

The company also introduced *Safari 5*, an Apple Store shopping app (US only) and also introduced a *Find My iPhone* app.

The new webmail features offer you widescreen and compact views, along with support for rules to keep your email organised. You get single-click archiving, better security and junk mail filtering and a formatting toolbar, but for most users the standout improvement will be the much faster performance they'll enjoy with the web-based app.

In addition, you can receive email from another service by having the email forwarded to your me.com address; your replies will show up as if they came from the original address.

The *Find My iPhone* app will let you track down your lost iPhone using any available



The brand-new, shiny and squeaky-clean MobileMe interface.

iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch. MobileMe members must just download the app and then sign in to find their lost device, which will be displayed on a map. Users can have their phone play a message, remotely lock the device and even wipe all its data remotely with the app.

Introduced in early June, *Safari 5* offers the new *Safari Reader*, is 30% faster than *Safari 4*, and supports Google, Yahoo! and Bing search.

Safari 5 also introduces support for *Safari Extensions*, which will in future be made available via a *Safari Extensions* gallery as they are developed. ●

>> APPLE EVENTS / What's going on?

18
AUGUST

MacFormat issue 225 18 August

We'll be taking an in-depth look at everything Apple-related as we head through summer.

IFS, Berlin 3-8 September

The 50th IF trade show will attract reps from across the world's consumer electronics industry, eager to show us what's new in convergence technology.

IBC EXHIBITION, Amsterdam 10-14 September

IBC is the leading international forum for the electronic media industry, offering everything across the content value chain.

AD:TECH LONDON 21-22 September

Apple's in advertising now, so don't be surprised to see it around at the next interactivity-focused Ad:Tech show.

G2E, Las Vegas 16-18 November

This international gaming event is among the most important on the industry calendar, as it acts as the pre-Christmas launchpad for new titles.

CES, Las Vegas 7-10 January 2010

The CES Apple section expands from 4,000 to 25,000 square feet next year; we wonder, is Apple exhibiting?

Join us online



Website

Visit www.macformat.co.uk to read the latest blogs and Apple news.

Podcast

Download MacFormat This Week from the iTunes Store or our website.

Forum

Visit forum.macformat.co.uk to chat to other MacFormat readers online.

Twitter

We're now on Twitter! Follow our tweets at twitter.com/MacFormat.

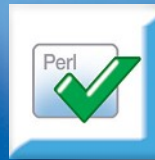
Facebook

Visit our Facebook group. Just do a search for "MacFormat" to find us.

1&1 Web Hosting Packages JUST GOT EV



Firewall



Syntax Checker



MySQL Administration



Spam Filtering



1&1 EasyShop



Google Sitemaps



Dynamic Content



Newsletter Tool



1&1 RSS Creator



1&1 WebStatistics



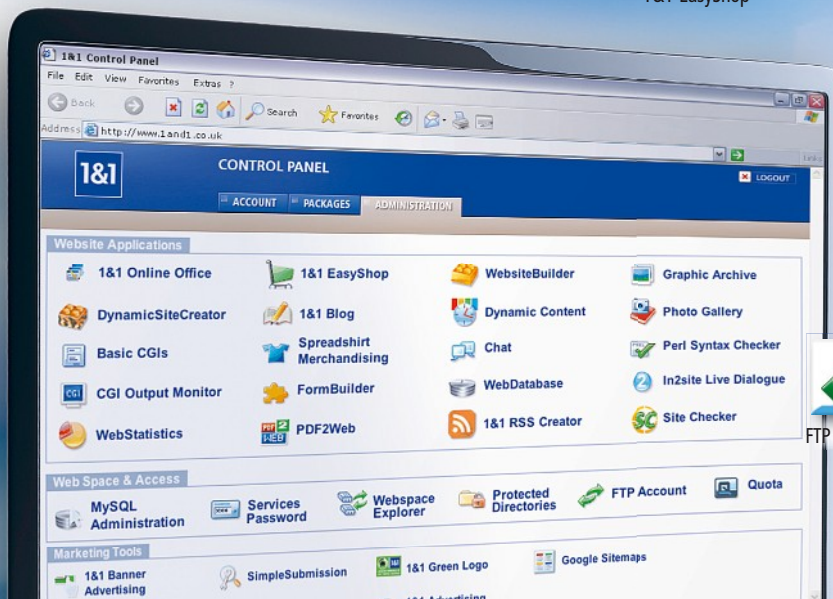
1&1 Blog



Quota



FTP Account



At 1&1 we invest in the future of our customers. We have over 1000 in-house developers creating the latest features and innovations website professionals need to produce an impressive web presence. While constantly making the web more accessible for novice users with great tools such as the 1&1 WebsiteBuilder and the 1&1 EasyShop, 1&1 offers fantastic value with packages bursting with features. And now our packages are even bigger with massively increased quotas! Sign up now and save forever with a special discount that you will receive for the life of your package!

EN BIGGER!

LIFETIME SAVING
SIGN UP NOW, SAVE FOREVER!*

1&1 HOME PACKAGE

- **NEW:** 10 GB Web Space
- **UNLIMITED** Traffic
- **NEW:** 1,500 IMAP/POP3 E-Mail Accounts
- **NEW:** 1,500 Online Office Accounts
- **NEW:** 1 Database
- **NEW:** 10 FTP Access Accounts
- 1 .uk domain included

~~£4.99~~ **£3.99**
per month*
per month*

Sign up now, save forever*

1&1 BUSINESS PACKAGE

- **NEW:** 40 GB Web Space
- **UNLIMITED** Traffic
- **NEW:** 3,000 IMAP/POP3 E-Mail Accounts
- **NEW:** 3,000 Online Office Accounts
- **NEW:** 8 Databases
- **NEW:** 20 FTP Access Accounts
- 3 .uk domains included

~~£8.99~~ **£6.99**
per month*
per month*

Sign up now, save forever*

Domain offers:

.info £0.99 first year, .com £6.99 first year.*

*Special offers as of 01/07/2010 and for a limited time only. 12 month minimum contract term applies for Home Package and Business Package special offer. Terms and Conditions apply, please see website for further details. Prices exclude VAT.

or visit us now **www.1and1.co.uk**

1&1

COMPETITION

It's a thing of beauty - and it could be yours. Just answer the question below!

Photography by Philip Sowels



PRIZE
WORTH
£825!

Win! A Mac mini and a copy of Printfolio!

Bag a Mac mini and BeLight's great publishing suite!



Ukraine-based BeLight Software broke the mould with *Printfolio*. Most design applications trade ease of use for depth of features, but *Printfolio* is both user-friendly and comprehensive. A suite of excellent layout applications, its flagship app is *Swift Publisher 2*, winner of our budget DTP software group test in issue 222. There's also a label designer that prints to pretty much any standard sticker template, a business card composer, a tool to create disc on-bodies and a couple of handy art editors.

Printfolio is a bargain at \$90 (around £63), but we've got five to give away. One lucky winner bags a copy of *BeLight Software Printfolio* and a 2.26GHz Mac mini, with four runners-up getting a copy of *Printfolio*.

Software prizes will be delivered by digital download, so you need an internet connection.

The question

To stand a chance of winning one of these superb prizes, just answer the following simple question:

In which country does *Printfolio* developer BeLight Software have its headquarters?

- A) Belgium
- B) India
- C) Ukraine

For more information on *Printfolio* and other exciting BeLight Software products, go to www.belightsoft.com.

» HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, text MINI, followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at www.macformat.co.uk and click on the **Competition** link.
- By sending your entry, you agree to these competition rules and you confirm you are happy to receive details of future offers and promotions from

- Future Publishing Limited and carefully selected third parties.
- If you do not want to receive information relating to future offers and promotions, please include the words NO INFO at the end of your text message.
- Texts will be charged at £1 plus your standard network tariff rate.
- Competition closes on 18 August 2010.

**1&1 Web Hosting
now including**

NEW

ONLINE OFFICE!



1&1 Mail:
E-mail, Calendar, Contacts



1&1 Writer:
Word Processor



1&1 Sheet:
Tables & Data Calculator



1&1 Show:
Presentation Tool

All 1&1 Web Hosting packages now include 1&1 Online Office, a full office solution to use wherever you are. Offering much more than just a mail client and calendar, 1&1 Online Office gives you word processing, spread sheet and presentation applications all in a centralised location and 2 GB of storage space per user account to store your files and documents.

- **Cost-cutting** – Included for FREE in all 1&1 Web Hosting packages, no need to pay any expensive licence fees.
- **Online** – Your documents are available from any internet connected PC. No matter where you are, you can access your information and edit your documents.
- **Compatible** – Compatible with popular Office products – open, edit and save as .doc, .odt, .xls, .ods, .ppt or .odp documents.
- **Secure** – Your documents are stored in our state-of-the art data centres and are connected with secure SSL technology giving you that extra peace of mind that your documents are in safe hands.

INCLUDED
WITH ALL 1&1 WEBHOSTING
PACKAGES!

Call **0871 641 21 21**

Calls cost 6p per minute from a BT landline, calls from other operators and mobiles may be higher.

or visit us now **www.1and1.co.uk**



1&1

Me&MyMac

>>> CONTACT US

Want to share your Mac setup with us? Send a photo of your kit to **christopher.phin@futurenet.com**

MacFormat readers share their beloved Mac setups

15-inch MacBook Pro 3.06GHz

With beauties like this, it's no wonder Apple notebook sales are rocketing.

Apple LED Cinema Display

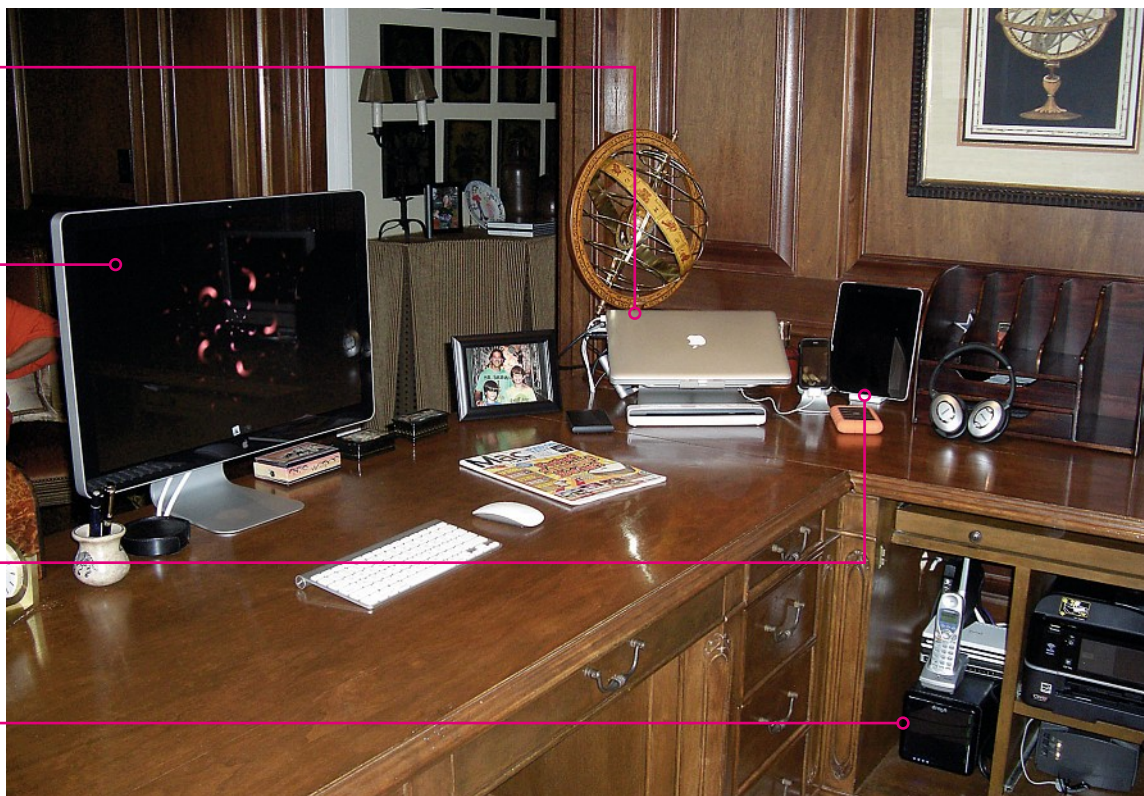
Any modern monitor will work with a Mac, but few will look as good as this one.

iPad Wi-Fi + 3G 64GB

Many people have found that the iPad is replacing their laptop as a trusty travelling companion.

Drobo FS

This network-ready upgrade to the expandable Drobo storage enclosure keeps Arnold's files safe.



>>> PROFILE

Name: Arnold J. Weil, MD

Occupation: Physician, consultant, public speaker, amateur photographer

Been using a Mac for: 2.5 years

Favourite hardware:

MacBook Pro

Favourite software:

Spark, iWork

Like many of us, physician Arnold Weil was first drawn to Mac computers because they're, well, just so gorgeous. "I started using Macs in January 2008; I was impressed by the sleek look of a MacBook Pro, and I'd heard from many other users how unbelievable the experience was," he tells us.

Since then, Arnold has put together an impressive home setup with everything he needs for both business and personal use. "I do everything for my consulting business on my MacBook Pro. I give lectures and presentations in *Keynote* using my iPad, and do all administrative and personal tasks on my MacBook Pro, including spreadsheets in *Numbers* and word processing in *Pages*." He's also fanatical about one particular piece of software: "iWork. It's like *Microsoft Office* on steroids! As far as

"I give lectures and presentations in Keynote on my iPad, and do admin tasks on my MacBook Pro"

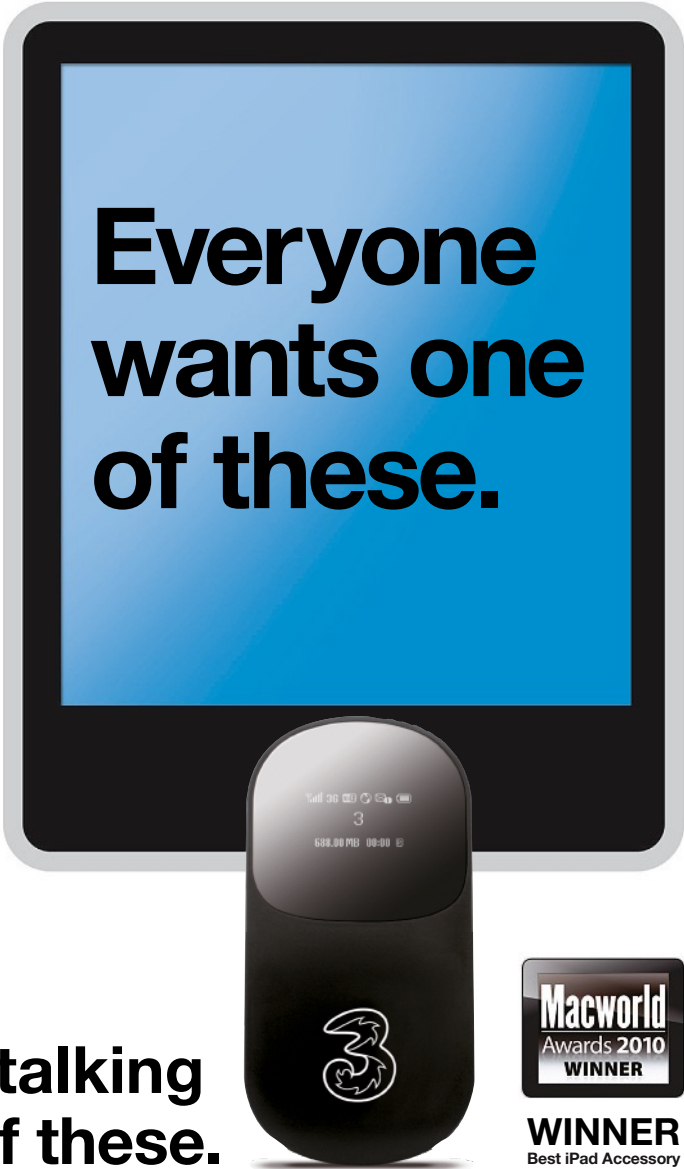
third-party apps go, I can't function without *Spark* for apps and shortcuts, and I use it as a launcher every day."

As a keen traveller, Arnold knows he can rely on his Apple kit to keep him in touch with home. "I travel for business all over the US, and for pleasure all around the globe," he explains. "And I always have my MacBook Pro with me. Once, I was travelling on a safari in Kenya and Tanzania in areas of poor network coverage. My phone wasn't working but somehow I was able to boot up my laptop and use *Skype* to communicate back home to the US."

No prizes for guessing which Apple product Arnold rates as his favourite ever. "I think the iPad is incredibly cool and is unbelievably efficient as a road warrior's tool. My other favourite is my iPhone. I never go anywhere without it. My entire life is on the phone, and I can do almost anything and everything I need to at all times."

It's not all globe-trotting fun, though; he does suffer a torment we're sure many readers will sympathise with. "Unfortunately I have to use a PC laptop at work, and every time I use one, I feel like I've gone back to the Stone Age. I use *VMware Fusion* for the times I need to use Windows on my MacBook Pro and that works well."

So what shiny new piece of kit does Arnold have his eye on next? Surprisingly, he doesn't! "I think I'm pretty set as is," he muses. We do love a contented Mac user. ●



**Everyone
wants one
of these.**

**Everyone's talking
about one of these.**



WINNER
Best iPad Accessory

Ok, so it's all over the net, Twitter, Facebook® and the blogosphere. But not everyone knows about it yet.

If you want one of those Wi-Fi only tablet devices, then with our neat little mobile Wi-Fi dongle from Huawei, you can create your own Wi-Fi hotspot and enjoy access to the UK's largest 3G network. Wirelessly.

It really is the perfect match. But don't just take our word for it. It's just won MacWorld's prestigious award for Best iPad Accessory.

- Fits in your pocket – take it anywhere
- Create your own Wi-Fi hotspot with MiFi®
- No wires. No installation. No software
- Connect up to five Wi-Fi enabled devices
- 5GB of data for just £15 a month

MiFi® for just £39.99

Order yours now for next day delivery, go to

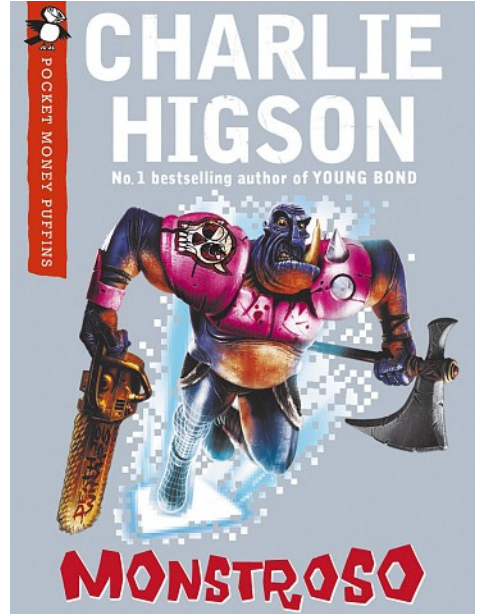
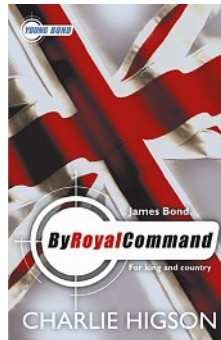
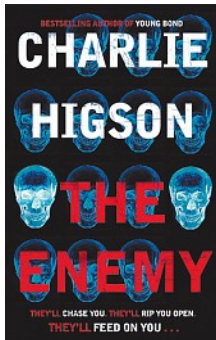
Three.co.uk/mifi

Call 0800 358 4835 or visit a 3Store



Three.co.uk

Subject to availability, credit check and connection to a minimum one month contract. 1GB = 1024MB. Charges of 10p per MB apply if inclusive allowance is exceeded. Orders must be placed by 12pm for next day delivery. Service limitations and terms apply. See three.co.uk for details.



Above Young Bond graphic novel *Silverfin*. **Right** Charlie and zombie friends at the launch of his new series, *The Enemy*. **Far right** Charlie's recent book for Puffin's 70th anniversary 'Pocket Money Puffins' series: *Monstroso*.



I use my Mac for writing books

Young Bond writer and *Fast Show* co-creator Charlie Higson shares his Mac secrets



>>PROFILE

Name: Charlie Higson
Location: North London
Occupation: Writer and comedian
System(s): PowerMac G5
Web: twitter.com/monstroso

MacFormat: Why did you get a Mac in the first place?

Charlie Higson: I love word processors. Some older writers say: "It's not a proper book if you use a word processor. Nothing beats a medieval quill!" But writers become obsessed with writing tools and worry they'll lose the magic if they change things. I started on an Amstrad, but had friends with Macs. I knew Macs were better, but feared because they could do more than write that I'd waste time. Lo and behold, I got a Mac, and these days I spend loads of time arsing about on it!

MF: So how does the Mac help you work?

CH: I couldn't write without *Word* – or *Final Draft* for scriptwriting – because I write first drafts fast and do lots of

restructuring. The Mac's also great for research – if you need to know a fact, it's there, instantly, in front of you.

MF: How do you approach writing more generally?

CH: I love the process. I enjoy being stuck in my office, writing. The hard part is getting the original idea – everything starts with a moment of inspiration, and things then happen quickly. While I was being asked to write *Young Bond*, I could see in my mind how it could work and what the story might be. But where those ideas come from is impossible to say.

MF: What makes something essentially 'Charlie Higson'?

CH: I love characters. What connects my adult thrillers with *The Fast Show* is that they're about strong characters

and what makes them different, funny or interesting.

MF: And your career standouts?

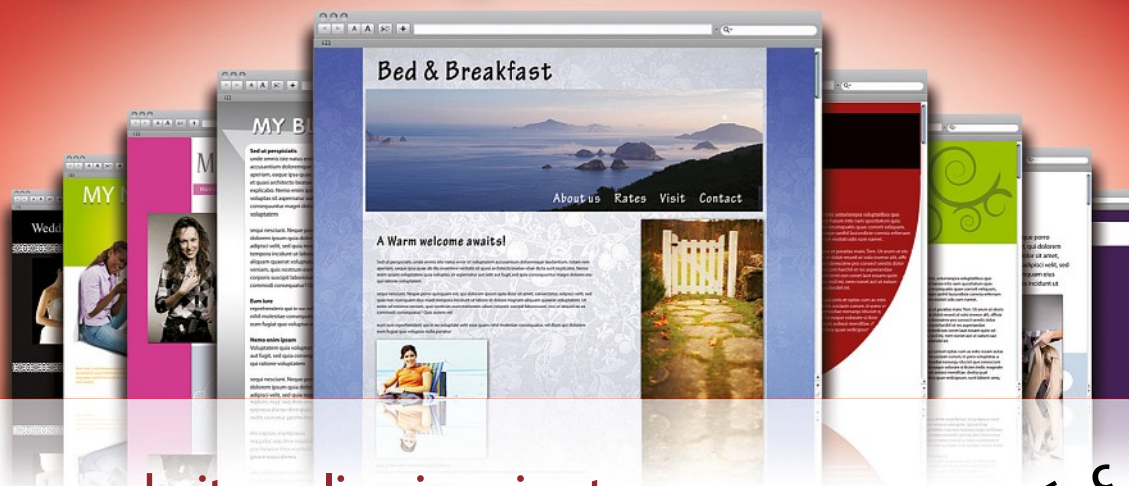
CH: *The Fast Show* was successful in terms of cultural awareness, but it was brilliant at a fairly late stage in my life to be offered a new career as a children's writer. It's fantastic that I've become popular with a generation for whom *The Fast Show* means nothing – to them, I'm Charlie Higson, writer of the *Young Bond* books.

MF: What are you working on?

CH: A series of books called *The Enemy*, which is 'kids versus zombies'. I'm working on the second one and I've been doing research on the Mac, wandering around Google Street View, imagining zombies jumping out from behind buildings! ●



Create a website quickly & easily



Get your website online in minutes

Use our free and easy website builder to create an attractive and professional looking website, including 350 customisable templates, personalised email and FREE instant setup.

With over 10 years experience, we're the web host you can trust. All of our web hosting packages include 24/7 phone and online support, so we're here whenever you need us.



STANDARD WEB HOSTING

1st Month FREE

£4.99pm £5.86 inc VAT

Our Standard package includes:

- ✓ **UPGRADED** 5GB web space.
- ✓ Unlimited website traffic (bandwidth)[†] - no limits, no fees.
- ✓ **FREE** website builder tool.
- ✓ **FREE** instant set up.
- ✓ Choice of Windows or Linux - no extra cost.
- ✓ Personalised virus and spam protected email.
- ✓ 500 email accounts.
- ✓ Graphical web stats - advanced visitor statistics.
- ✓ 24/7 phone & online support.

**SECURE
WEB HOSTING**

**1st Month
FREE**

LIMITED PERIOD OFFER*

**Microsoft®
GOLD CERTIFIED
Partner**

Visit **www.fasthosts.co.uk** for our full range of web hosting packages
plus additional savings for annual and biennial payments

Free instant setup • Unlimited bandwidth • 24/7 phone & online support

Buy now at
fasthosts.co.uk/hosting
0844 583 0741

Proud sponsor of

**The Great
Exhibition
2012**

World Class Web Hosting



Microsoft
Partner Network

2010 PARTNER OF THE YEAR
Hosting Solutions
Finalist

Gadgets

The hottest kit, coming soon.
Here's what Apple is up against



◀ JVC Everio GZ-HM550 1080p Camcorder

£535 www.jvc.com

What is it? This camcorder oozes quality. It's light, records HD video in full 1080p and lets you import video directly to *iTunes*. Most interestingly of all, its integrated Bluetooth module lets you control your camera using your phone, and even use your mobile's GPS feature to geotag your videos.

When's it due? Should be with us now.

Why are we excited? At last, a camcorder that makes no compromises. The Everio GZ-HM550 offers a great feature range without cutting corners on video quality.

▶ Philips SHQ3000 Washable Earphones

£30 <http://tinyurl.com/29rkhsd>

What is it? These washable earbuds are great for those who lead an active lifestyle. Or just sweat a lot. The trendy, over-the-ear headphones are so waterproof you can wash them under a tap. They're pretty comfortable, and offer a rich, bassy sound.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited?

If you saw the state of *MacFormat* team's earbuds, you'd know.



▲ Wearable Inc AirStash

\$100 (£68) www.airstash.com

What is it? This pocket-sized wireless media server combines an SD card reader with a rechargeable battery, so you can stream your movies, music or images to your Wi-Fi device while it's in your pocket. It's a handy and cheap way of expanding your iPad, iPhone or iPod touch's storage capacity.

When's it due? Out now, if you import.

Why are we excited? It's ideal for streaming media to your Apple device, as well as being the perfect companion for the iPad.

► Bluelounge CableClip

\$10 (£7) www.bluelounge.com/cableclip.php

What is it? If your cables are in a tangle, you need this dinky device. These packs of clips are available in three sizes, and keep your leads tidy, whether in use or packed for storage. The smallest clip is great for stopping your earbuds from knotting in your pocket.

When's it due? Order online now.

Why are we excited? Excited? To be honest, we're more relieved. Trailing spaghetti is the bane of any computer user's life, and CableClips brings some welcome order to the chaos that is our desks.



◀ ClamCase

£TBA www.clamcase.com

What is it? It's an iPad stand with a difference. As well as offering multiple display positions in both portrait and landscape mode, it also gives you a Bluetooth keyboard. With a ClamCase, you can use your iPad as a notebook.

When's it due? Autumn 2010.

Why are we excited? Tactile typing when you're working? A handy stand for movie viewing? Screen protection for when you're carrying your iPad around with you? Give us some of that!

► Speakal iCrystal

\$80 (£55) www.speakal.com/icrystal.html

What is it? It's an iPod or iPhone docking station with a difference. iCrystal is available in red, white or black. It's fully portable, offering the option of being powered by four AA batteries.

When's it due? It's out right now in the States, and should be here soon.

Why are we excited? The iCrystal is proof positive that iPod docking stations needn't all look the same. Its two separated spherical pods look like landing UFOs as they shed a gentle ambient blue light around the rim of the speaker. Gorgeous!



Feedback

>> CONTACT US



Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address: macformat@futurenet.com

Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

Toddlers & iPads

I was really struck by watching my own toddler's interaction with an iPad and then reading about your experience with Jacob (editor's son, *MacFormat* 222). I filmed my son's first few minutes seeing an iPad for the first time to see how intuitive they are. The ensuing results are at <http://bit.ly/cZBQJP>. As you can see, he pretty quickly worked it all out - even at the tender age of two.

Like you, I also experienced the trauma associated with removal! For a while, the sitting room was filled with the sound of screams, temper tantrums and bashing furniture in frustration. Eventually,



The iPad is always a hit with toddlers, and there are some great apps for them too.

however, my two-year-old relented and let me have the iPad back.

Richard Harrold

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the video, Richard. Proof that even toddlers can use the iPad with absolutely no bother!

Multi mayhem

I bought my parents' current MFD unit seven or eight years ago (Epson RX620 - think it cost around £185, if memory serves). The scanner's still fine, but the printer has just about had it. I spent all last Friday attempting to align the heads (wasting a ton of ink in the process) and it wasn't having any of it.

They need something with laser-sharp black that can also produce crisp, clear, well-balanced photos. However, there is a very large fly in the ointment - it must be able to take refilled tanks (Mum goes to Cartridge World to have the current ones refilled). I know you were singing the praises of

>> STAR LETTER / Better safe than sorry

A few weeks ago I was burgled and, amongst lots of other items taken including my car, the thieving b*****ds took my 13-inch white MacBook. I'm trying to be pragmatic about it and think of it all as just 'stuff' that can be replaced, but it's made me realise how dependent I'd become on the laptop. Foolishly, I hadn't backed anything up since before Christmas, so I've lost photos, which are irreplaceable. My excuse is that I was running Tiger and I intended to upgrade to Snow Leopard soon so that I could take advantage of *Time Machine*. I even had a plan to do it in stages over the summer:

first, I would get another external drive and clone my almost full 60GB MacBook drive; second I would replace the drive in the MacBook with a 320GB one; and finally, I would upgrade to Snow Leopard. Ironically, the new external drive arrived the day after the burglary, and the postman was probably confused by my unhappy reaction when I received the parcel.

I've learned another painful lesson from this experience though, because my insurance company tell me that while the laptop is covered by my policy, none of the additional software or iTunes downloads are, and I have never backed up

applications. It simply never occurred to me that it would be a problem, but now it's going to be a costly error on my part. I'm guessing that I'm not the only person using Tiger who puts off making backups, so I just wanted to remind people that you never know when something bad can happen. It's certainly a mistake I won't be making again.

Tim Deans

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the warning Tim, and deepest commiserations. We hope that winning this month's Letter of the Month prize of an Elgato EyeTV Hybrid will at least go some way towards making up for your loss.

>> STAR LETTER



Email all your letters to us at macformat@futurenet.com. If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic EyeTV Hybrid. It comes with analog and digital tuners, so you can use it to put TV on your Mac wherever you are in the country!

the Canon MX870 a few issues ago - but have you seen the price of the tanks?

So, any suggestions?

Sarah Balfour

MacFormat replies: We actually think the Canon tanks are pretty reasonable, and, though we haven't checked - we don't like to run the risk of low-quality inks, though we understand why your folks want to use them - we'd be amazed if they couldn't be refilled. That said, they might be chipped, but it may be possible to get third-party, unchipped ones that can be happily refilled.

The Canon PIXMA range is as foolproof as modern technology is these days. That is to say, they are, sadly, still quite complex beasts, but they try hard to make it as simple as possible for consumers.

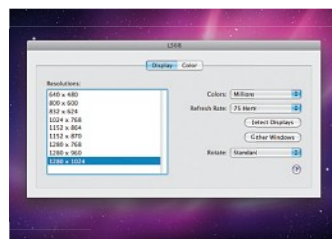
Wall art

Having purchased the glorious 27-inch iMac in February, I have used it pretty much non-stop. It's such a fantastic machine and everything about it is just perfect. At the moment it's plonked right in the middle of my desk, which means it's taking up most of it. The problem being, I need to use the desk to carry out other working tasks, so the iMac, keyboard and mouse all have to be pushed as far back as possible to make some room.

Now, after seeing Kenny Kartasmita's section of 'Me and My Mac' in *MacFormat* issue 222, with his wall-mounted



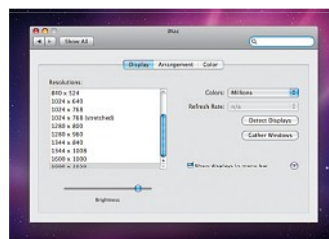
Kenny Kartasmita's Mac setup has proved a big hit with the MF readership.



External monitors have a rotate 90-degree option...

cinema display, it got me thinking. So here are my two burning questions for you guys: after buying the wall mount adaptor from Apple, which is the best wall mount to go for? I want it to be on a swing-arm, so it can be pulled to and from the wall, and also rotate-able (if the answer to my second question is in fact 'yes!'). The second question being: can the 27-inch iMac be used in Portrait Mode, like Kenny's Cinema Display was?

Simon Ellis



...But the iMac's own display can't be utilised in Portrait mode as standard.

MacFormat replies:

Unfortunately, we haven't done much research on these mounts, but the good news is that Apple can use the standard VESA mount system, so that your choice of which mount to use is very broad indeed. In fact, Apple sells one through the online Apple Store. However, be aware that while Mac OS enables you by default to rotate external monitors in 90-degree increments (see the Rotate drop-down menu in the first picture here), the iMac's own display can't be rotated to allow for portrait mode (see the second picture). You may, in theory, be able to use some third-party hack, but we would do so with caution; it's entirely possible that the thermal envelope of the iMac has been so tightly designed - note the long, thin gap at the top of the back of your iMac to allow heat to dissipate as it rises - that shifting the orientation to portrait may cause unforeseen stress and possible damage to your iMac's components. This may, indeed, account for why there is no option for rotating the display in the Mac's relevant *System Preferences* pane.



The Canon PIXMA MX870 received 5 stars and an MF Choice Award in issue 220.

Twitter talk

From the Twittersphere

We asked:

What's your favourite new iOS 4 feature?

@applehamiltus

"My fave iOS 4 feature has got to be multitasking and the custom homescreens. I can now put the @MacFormat cover on my iPhone!"

@Ricker666

"Folders is incredible, 5 pages of apps reduced down to 1! Loving fast app switching as well."

@jamespine

"I absolutely love it! Apple has finally listened to all those people jailbreaking for backgrounds and folders. I love the BGs!"

@mruku

"Loving the new folders feature in iOS 4. It's much easier to keep track of my apps now."

@winstano

"Folders, until I can get my hands on a shiny iPhone 4 (using 3G at the mo). The best OS feature since Time Machine in Leopard."

@brianpilates

"Favourite feature? Folders. Can almost have everything on one page so no having to sift through four when I want to open something."

@Warrior876

"The fact that iPad is now autocorrected when you type it in! :p"

@hiliosengine

"My favourite new feature in iOS 4 is the animation between multitasked apps."



Awesome Apple

I had been thinking about buying a Mac for a few months. I've always wanted one, but the expense always outweighed the need. Upon taking my photography and filmmaking seriously (and the whole getting a job part) I decided to buy my first Mac. The 27-inch i5 iMac. Now, call me a weakling but that thing was heavy! Upon seeing the big brown box it was delivered in and making several attempts to shift the thing, I'm man enough to admit it ended with "Daaaaaad, come help me!". After watching countless unboxings and startups on Youtube, I unboxed and booted the monster up next to my, now puny and rarely used, 22-inch HDTV. After that beautiful little 'Welcome' movie and connecting my Bluetooth mouse and keyboard, I was ready to rock, and I was presented with the iconic purple sky thing.

I sat there for a little while wondering where to start, and, of course, I came to the quick conclusion to load up *Safari* and brag on Facebook. After several hours of gloating, my attention was turned to the very important task of loading up *PhotoBooth* and making myself look like some mutant being caught in a blender (and walking on the moon). Even if just for

>> iOS 4 / First impressions

I downloaded the new iPhone/iPod touch software this morning - not as good as the hype (perhaps). Folders is a good idea, but not if a folder can only hold 12 items. The 'multitasking' feature seems to work all right, so could be useful. But Vanilla Breeze's *Classical Music Master Collection* doesn't work at all! Also, *iTunes* freezes when my iPod touch is connected if I organise the apps into folders (via *iTunes*); the app screen freezes when I try to load apps into folders, and a black triangle appears under the folder. This doesn't seem to affect the iPod touch. No doubt

an update will be released soon to sort everything out. *iBooks* is good, mind - I'm surprised at the amount of free classics available. Well done, Apple.

Bruce Richardson

MacFormat replies: Some apps (such as Vanilla Breeze's *Classical Music Master Collection*, which you mention) seem to be incompatible with iOS 4, but we're sure the developers are hard at work fixing them. Keep checking the Updates section of your App Store app! Your *iTunes* freezing sounds more unusual, but it might be fixed by a future *iTunes* or Mac OS X update.



The iOS 4 software is a free update for all iPhone 3G and 3GS users.

gloating and moonwalking, it was worth the £1,600.

Eventually, I installed a few trials to see which programs would be best. For example, right now I'm trialing *Aperture 3*. In my opinion, it's a bit naff, but it may be because I'm such a *Lightroom*-loving user. That being said, I'm giving it a try. The Faces and Places features mean absolutely nothing to me. I couldn't care less, to be honest, where I took my photos, but I think I will be able to see the

Faces benefits once my catalogue builds up.

MobileMe is another trial. It's one of those typical Apple products. I didn't need it, now they've shown me I do; I can't live without it. *MobileMe* is great for when I'm at work too. I can access my home computer with Back to Mac and my cloud storage with all my images. I love my Mac! I could fill up your magazine with why. Oh my God, the Magic Mouse! Brilliance!

I would get rid of my PC if some of my gadgetry arsenal wasn't Windows-only (ahem, HTC). Also, my Mac is for my organised 'official' work. Somehow, Windows PCs just seem to laugh at you if you try any sort of organising. Next on the list of things to buy: a Wacom Bamboo Fun Pen and Touch tablet.

Michael Henson

MacFormat replies: First of all, welcome to the world of the Mac, Michael. We've all been using Macs so long here that we've forgotten that initial rush of excitement a new Mac user gets, so it was good to be reminded of it. Oh, and if you have an HTC phone, then it won't be long before you get tempted by an iPhone... look out!

12 Mac screens

On 26 May at 9pm, a dozen Macs were featured, with emphatic vocal credit lines, on the Rachel Maddow Show on MSNBC. It was the day when BP first attempted to "top kill" the oil spill by pumping "mud" into it. The 12 Macs were in Congressman Ed Markey's office (Democratic, Massachusetts), and were featured live all day on his Congressional website. They showed 12 different angles, each focused on the source of the oil spill a mile below the surface - and all 12 Apple Mac screens were seen live on TV, in a checkerboard pattern, while Rachel Maddow interviewed Ed Markey, alternating with the usual single close-up of the oil spew. Rachel announced in advance the role of the 12 Macs, and at the end of the segment she thanked them, as well as Congressman Markey, for their contribution to understanding the phenomenon.

We often see Apple products on TV, but we rarely hear them announced by name, or thanked for their performance.

Sheridan Germann

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the heads-up, Sheridan. ●



Even opening the box of an Apple product offers pure joy!

Reseller Hosting

30 Day
Money Back
Guarantee**Only**
£29.99
Per Month

Reseller Features

- ✓ Host unlimited web sites.
- ✓ Linux & Windows New accounts included.
- ✓ Create your own web hosting packages.
- ✓ Disable, delete & edit accounts in real time.
- ✓ Fully brandable control panels and experience.
- ✓ Web hosting accounts instantly activated.
- ✓ HostPay shopping cart free.
- ✓ Generic webmail, SSL & nameservers or your own.

Ideal for Web Designers,
Developers and Entrepreneurs

Start Your Own Web Hosting Company!

Web Hosting Features

- ✓ Unlimited web space & bandwidth.
- ✓ Unlimited mailboxes, forwarding & autoresponders.
- ✓ Unlimited databases, FTP & sub domains.
- ✓ Huge CGI library including WordPress & Joomla.
- ✓ Website builder & shopping carts.
- ✓ PHP, Perl, Ruby, SSL, Stats.
- ✓ Amazing control panel & file manager.
- ✓ Over 100 features for each account.

Too Much to List!
New Features Added All The Time

Check Out Our Website!



"Heart Internet support their customers with market-leading hosting technology at great prices"

Suzi Perry*Technology TV Presenter*

HostPay

Create Your Own Hosting Company**FREE**
with our
Reseller
Package

Amazing Features Including:

**Customer Management
& Registration System****Instant Activation
For Your Customers****Fully White Label
Themes/Skins**

What is HostPay?

HostPay is a highly customisable shopping cart & customer management system that is free with our Reseller Package.

- ✓ Supports PayPal, Google Checkout, WorldPay, Protx, Nochex & 2Co.

- ✓ Easy to set up and grows with your business.

For more information visit:

www.heartinternet.co.uk

Tel: 0845 644 7750

Email: sales@heartinternet.co.uk

Prices exclude VAT

Words by **Graham Barlow**

MacFormat investigates



One to One Apple training

We take a closer look at one of the Apple Store's best-kept secrets – its One to One training program – to see if it's really worth the £79-a-year asking price

From the hustle and bustle of the street outside, you step through glass doors and walk beneath the glowing logo to enter the airy world of clarity, intelligence and creativity that is the Apple Store.

Entering an Apple Store really is like stepping into a vision of the future where robots do all the mundane chores for us and we simply while away the hours enjoying the finest gadgets mankind has ever created, all beautifully set out on tables before us like a technology buffet.

Except this is actually a shop, and the relaxed atmosphere is also designed to put you in a spending mood.

But there's more to the Apple Store than looking cool and selling Macs. Most people will be familiar with the Genius Bar in every store. It's a place where you can take your Mac for free advice on any problems you're having. But did you know that this is just one of the many services every Apple Store provides? Not many people are aware of One to One, for example: it's an in-store training service that Apple offers when you purchase a new Mac.

There are now over 280 Apple Stores worldwide and 27 in the UK. That's a lot of stores selling a lot of Macs every day, and it's

at these new Mac owners that Apple's One to One training is exclusively aimed. This is an important point: you can only purchase One to One at the time you buy a new Mac – you can't decide to purchase it at a later date, or if you haven't just bought a new Mac.

This applies equally to purchases made online through Apple's website (you can select One to One on the Configure your Mac page). One to One training costs £79 a year, which might initially sound a lot, especially

when you consider you're already forking out for a new Mac and maybe adding Apple Care on top. But when you consider that you can have as much training as you can handle in that year,

it starts to sound like better value.

In fact, it's incredible value – while plenty of the training sessions are aimed at first-time Mac users and cover the basics, such as transferring your files from an old PC to a new Mac, or learning the ins and outs of OS X, you can also be trained in Apple's heavyweight professional apps like *Logic*, *Final Cut* and *Bento*. Training in these applications is typically quite expensive.

There are three main types of training offered in the Apple Store: Personal Training >>

"Not many people are aware of the One to One training service Apple offers when you purchase a new Mac"



Editor Graham getting to grips with Final Cut Express in his One to One training session.

Photography by Dave Caudrey

ONE TO ONE TRAINING

Sessions, One to One Workshops and Personal Projects. Once you've learned how to use an app in a Personal Training Session, it's perhaps this last type of training that's the most interesting, as it enables you to take your Mac into the Apple Store with whatever project you're working in loaded up, and get help and advice from an Apple expert on how to move forward with it. These Personal Projects take the form of three-hour group sessions. Just make your booking for a session then come into the store, start working on your project and whenever you have a question one of the Apple trainers will be on hand to help you keep your project progressing.

So, just imagine that you're in a band and you've just recorded a demo tape that you now need to mix in *Logic*, but you're stuck with the mixing process; or you need help creating a website in *iWeb*. You'll be able to take your Mac into the Apple Store, start working on the project and simply put your hand up and ask for help whenever you get stuck on something.

Reality check

But how good is Apple's training, really? The only way to find out was to try it for myself. As an experienced *iMovie* user (I've been using *iMovie* to edit clips of my children growing up for a good few years now) I've always been curious about what *Final Cut Express* could offer me. I'd installed it once before, loaded it up thinking I could just work it out, and within about five minutes given up completely. While it might be the next logical step up from *iMovie*, it has a completely different user interface and way of working.

In short, there was no way I was going to be able to figure *Final Cut Express* out by trial and error – I needed some professional help. So the combination of Apple opening



Rex explains the finer details of editing video.

a new store just over the road from my place of work, and my desire to test out Apple's One to One training, meant that I had a great opportunity to kill two birds with one stone.

From the beginning the service impresses. Once you've activated your account, all the bookings for One to One are

“Whenever you have a question, one of the Apple trainers will be on hand to help keep your project moving forward”

done through Apple's website at <http://onetoone.apple.com>. As you'd expect from Apple, it's a pretty straightforward process that uses your existing Apple ID as the login (in my case, my MobileMe email address), so there are no new passwords to remember. As soon as you log in, the website shows you details of your local store, including profiles of the Apple

trainers who work in the store and what apps they specialise in. There are several ways to book your training through the website, but the simplest is to click on one of the session guides. In my case, I clicked on 'Movie Making', then looked down the list of sessions until I found one that sounded like it would fit my needs. This was 'Moving up to Final Cut'. I was impressed that to book the training session all I needed to do was click on 'Make Reservation', select a day and time in the coming week, and everything was done. Be aware, though, that you can only have one session booked at a time, so don't bank on being able to set up a year's worth of training in one go.

On the website you can also see a calendar of upcoming events at your local store, including things like *GarageBand* workshops, and iPhone and iPad tours, and you can book them in a similar way. Once you're booked in you're sent an email reminder a couple of days before your appointment, which tells you who your

» APPLE PREMIUM RESELLERS / Your other training options

Remember, Apple Stores aren't the only place you can get training in how to use a Mac or popular Mac applications. The national group of Apple Premier Resellers (APRs) – independent local stores approved by Apple – also provide training, and unlike Apple's One to One service you don't need to have just bought a Mac to qualify for it.

For example, in Bath, Farpoint, (www.farpoint.co.uk) our local APR, offers “One-2-One” training on the Mac and Apple's applications at a fixed price

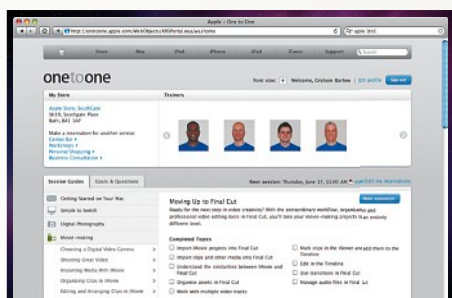
of £25 an hour. Elsewhere, Square Group (www.squaregroup.co.uk) in London offers a broad range of training at its New Oxford Street premises, and branches out to cover Adobe applications as well as *QuarkXpress*.

To find your local APR and to see what they have to offer in the way of training, see the location guide at www.apple.com/uk/buy/apr.

Farpoint, an Apple Premier Reseller in Bath, also provides excellent personal training.

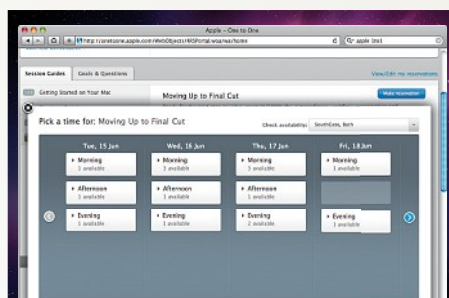


HOW TO / Book your reservation for One to One training



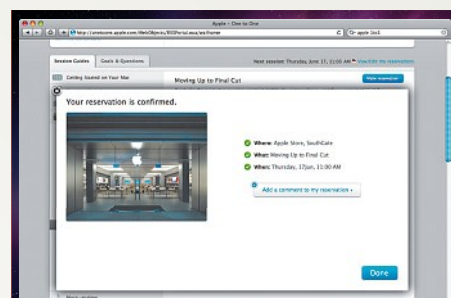
01 Log in to One to One

Visit <http://onetoone.apple.com> and log in with your Apple ID. Now you can browse through the Session Guides, which are split into subjects like **Movie Making** and **Digital Photography**. Once you've found a session you like, click on **Make Reservation**.



02 Pick a time

All the available time slots for your chosen training session at your local Apple Store are now displayed. Click the forward arrow to move to next week. Sessions happen either in the morning, afternoon or evening. Choosing one is as simple as clicking on it.



03 Results confirmed

Finally you get your confirmation message, which shows a picture of your local Apple Store - in this case the Apple Store in Bath. You'll also receive an email reminder a couple of days before your session is due to happen - see below! ●

trainer will be (complete with a picture of them so you can recognise them when you get to the store) and then all you need to do is pop along to the store when it's time.

Training day

So the day of my training arrived, and I found myself seated at the One to One training desk in front of a MacBook Pro running *Final Cut Express*. For the next hour, Rex, an Apple approved trainer who seemed to be knowledgeable, friendly and likeable, was going to introduce me to the world of *Final Cut Express*.

You might be surprised to learn that the training itself happens in the main store on

a desk reserved for One to One training, rather than out of the way in some back room. You might think that being trained while shoppers mill around you would be distracting, but in practice it's not. You tend to be so engrossed with what you're doing in your training session that you don't notice other people. Even the background

"You might be surprised to learn that the training happens in the main store on a desk reserved for One to One training"

music in the Apple Store didn't distract.

Another surprise is that Rex refused to touch the Mac at all. His point was that the best way to train people was to let them use the app themselves, rather than watch him do it. He was right, too. By the end of the session I knew how to do most basic tasks in *Final Cut Express*. I understood the Sequence, Bins, the Browser window, the Preview window and the Canvas window. I also got some great tips on In and Out points, the most useful keyboard shortcuts and how to add and customise transitions. To be fair, a lot of this basic information is available for free in videos on the Apple website (www.apple.com/finalcutexpress/tutorials), but there's nothing like the experience of personal training for really understanding what is being taught. I could also ask any questions I wanted, and Rex knew the app inside-out and wasn't stumped at any point.

At the end of my allotted hour I left the store already thinking about what my next One to One session would be on. While £79 may seem like a lot to shell out when you buy a Mac, the huge variety of training on offer, and the quality, makes it worth factoring into your overall cost of Mac ownership. The Apple Store is also a great place to visit: you get to know the staff and you feel like part of the Apple club.

As I left the Apple Store I was struck by the remark of one bedazzled customer looking on in wonder at her surroundings: "This doesn't feel like a shop at all." She was right - the Apple Store is so much more. ●

An Apple Store reminder.



Dear Graham,

Here are the details of your upcoming reservation.

What: Moving Up to Final Cut

When: Thursday, Jun 17, 2010 at 11:00AM

Where: Apple Store, SouthGate

Apple Store,
SouthGate

[Add this to your calendar](#)

If you are no longer able to attend this session, please [cancel](#) or [reschedule](#) your reservation.

[Get directions to the store](#)



We look forward to seeing you.
Rex B.
One to One Trainer,
Apple Store, SouthGate

Once you've book in for your training session you get an email reminder showing who your trainer will be.

SUBSCRIBE

»» **SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE WITH MACFORMAT AND GET**

Subscribe &



»» **DON'T MISS OUT!**

Subscribers to *MacFormat* get access to the Subscriber area of **MacFormat.co.uk**, which contains a PDF version of each issue as it goes on sale, as well as an archive of back issues

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIBERS
Go to page 93 for great subscription savings!

»» How to subscribe...

To subscribe to *MacFormat* for just £12.72 every 3 months by Direct Debit and get yourself a cool LA robe Allure Sleeve as your welcome gift, call 0844 848 2852 quoting reference MACP11 or subscribe online at:

www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/macp11

Please use the full web address shown to enjoy this special offer.

Contact centre opening times are: 0800 to 2130 weekdays, 0800 to 1600 on Saturdays

Terms & Conditions: This offer is open to new UK subscribers paying by Direct Debit only. Minimum subscription term is 12 months. Your subscription will start with the next available issue. You will receive 13 issues of *MacFormat* a year. Saving based on buying 13 issues of *MacFormat* from newsstand. Details of the Direct Debit guarantee available on request. If at any time during the next 60 days you are dissatisfied in any way, please notify us in writing and we will refund all unmailed items. In the unlikely event of stocks becoming exhausted, we reserve the right to replace with gift of similar value. Offer ends 18th August 2010.

A GREAT WELCOME GIFT!

save 35%

PLUS! Get yourself a 13.3-inch be.ez LA robe Allure Laptop Sleeve



Ideal for a digital lifestyle, the LA robe Allure has a fashionable design, which also boasts security and storage features. With a sleek black style, the LA robe Allure sleeve is built like a shell and contains 5mm high-density padding for the very best level of protection for all Apple notebooks. be.ez also utilises low-resilience polyurethane technology to create

a trendy and uniquely designed inner lip for maximum protection. A be.ez sleeve can be used on its own or as additional protection within your luggage; either way it protects your notebook from the bumps, scratches and knocks of everyday life.

For more information, or to see other sleeves in the range, visit www.be-ez.com.

**PROTECT
YOUR MAC!**
with this great
laptop sleeve
from be.ez!

be.ez
www.be-ez.com

» SPEED UP YOUR OLD MAC

Speed up your old Mac

Is your once-snappy Mac a slowcoach? Do apps take forever to launch? Sounds like your system needs to be purged...

As Mac users, we often like to poke fun at our unenlightened Windows-using counterparts who seem to be constantly updating drivers, defragmenting their hard drives and installing patches to retain optimum performance. Macs take a lot of the hassle out of basic maintenance but, as much as you might like to think you're invulnerable, they can get clogged up and slow down to a crawl over time.

A wide range of factors can cause this slowdown, from a lack of disk space to hidden apps hogging all your system resources. Sometimes it's purely down to the specs of your system not being quite as top notch as when you first bought your computer. But compared to a PC, Macs tend to last far longer and aren't prey to as many system killers such as

viruses and spyware. Typically Macs don't demand the extra protection software to prevent these threats - their installation is largely up to the user's discretion.

Mac OS X is designed for speed and, for the most part, does a great job of keeping your computer ticking over nicely, even if you don't restart your Mac for weeks. Even so, there are some things to be taken into consideration by all users - whether you're lucky enough to have the latest Intel Core-i chips or are still making do with a PowerPC-based processor.

So, if you have to go and make a cup of coffee while you wait for your Mac to boot up or walk the dog to kill time while launching that all-important application, make use of our advice over the next few pages to restore your Mac to its sparkling, speedy best. »

SPEED UP YOUR OLD MAC <<



Buying an older Mac

Grab yourself an old Mac and get it running like the clappers

Thanks to Apple's build quality, old Macs rarely die – they just end up on eBay. You can get a usable machine from under £100. To cope with modern life it'll need a G4 or higher processor and Mac OS X. Check the system requirements for any apps you want to run. Macs with PowerPC processors can't run Intel-based software, such as Windows under Boot Camp.

You can look up Mac specs at <http://support.apple.com/specs>; if a part number such as M8950LL/A is given, type it into the search box. Wikipedia and LowEndMac.com are good for unofficial info such as known problems. Confirm with the seller that the OS X discs are included, as you'll need them in emergencies. It's good if the OS has been upgraded to the highest compatible version – Mac OS X editions cost £25 to £75 on eBay – but do ensure the discs are supplied, and the same goes for any installed apps.

All non-prehistoric Macs have USB ports, but if they are USB 1.1 your iPhone, iPad or recent iPod may fail to connect: officially they require USB 2. Check if Wi-Fi is installed: AirPort means 802.11b, and AirPort Extreme will be 802.11g; if not, search eBay for the appropriate AirPort card, or try a USB adaptor. Alternatively, all Macs have Ethernet ports to cable directly to your router or to an AirPort Express (£81, www.apple.com/airportexpress), which then connects wirelessly.

Here's our pick of the sensible buys. Prices are for eBay; dealers will charge more but should offer some warranty and support.

iBook G4

Before the name was recycled, iBook was Apple's cheap laptop. The 1999 G3 clamshell model was wacky, but the white version (May 2001 to 2006) resembles today's MacBook. Of the 12-inch and 14-inch variants, the former is handier and has the same 1024x768 screen resolution.

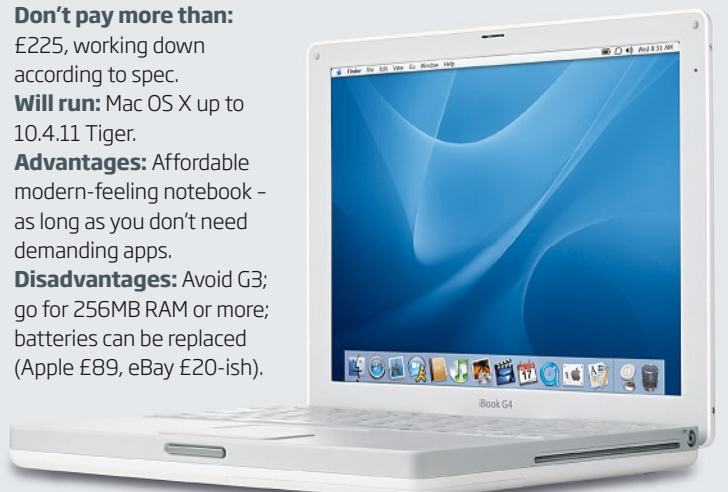
Don't pay more than:

£225, working down according to spec.

Will run: Mac OS X up to 10.4.11 Tiger.

Advantages: Affordable modern-feeling notebook – as long as you don't need demanding apps.

Disadvantages: Avoid G3; go for 256MB RAM or more; batteries can be replaced (Apple £89, eBay £20-ish).



eMac

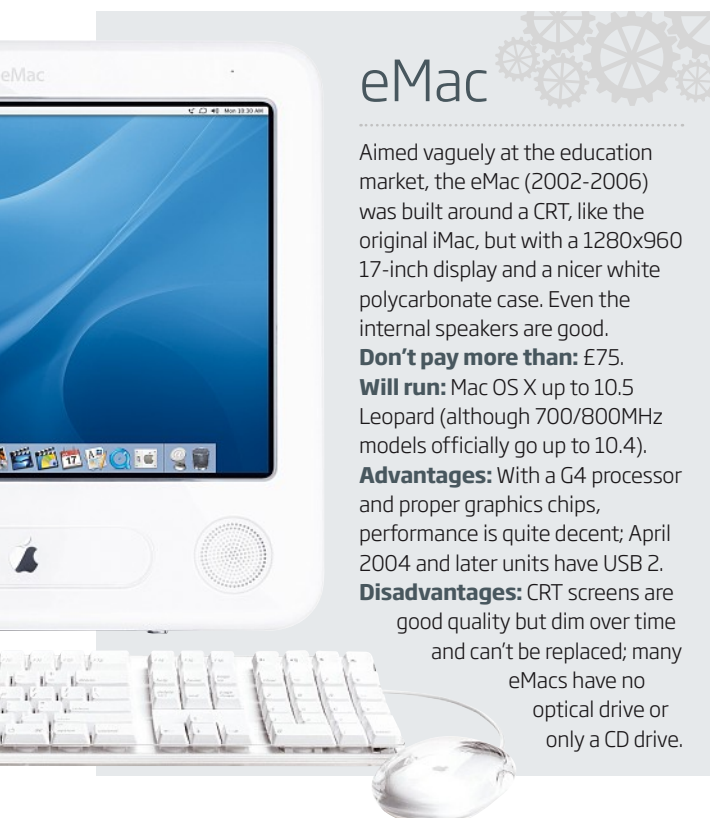
Aimed vaguely at the education market, the eMac (2002-2006) was built around a CRT, like the original iMac, but with a 1280x960 17-inch display and a nicer white polycarbonate case. Even the internal speakers are good.

Don't pay more than: £75.

Will run: Mac OS X up to 10.5 Leopard (although 700/800MHz models officially go up to 10.4).

Advantages: With a G4 processor and proper graphics chips, performance is quite decent; April 2004 and later units have USB 2.

Disadvantages: CRT screens are good quality but dim over time and can't be replaced; many eMacs have no optical drive or only a CD drive.



Power Mac G4

Apple's plastic towers, with their flamboyant corner handles, are fantastic value now. It's as much about finding the best spec as the best price. Ignore the first-generation Graphite G4 and the Bondi Blue G3; you want the Quicksilver (2001-2002) or Mirror Door (August 2002-2003).

Don't pay more than:

£100 (Mirror Door), £50 (Quicksilver).

Will run: Mac OS X up to 10.5 Leopard; Mac OS 9.2.2 (not FireWire 800 models).

Advantages: Good performers for their age; easy internal access to components, plus space; fast Gigabit Ethernet.

Disadvantages: No USB 2 ports to connect recent mobile devices (but a USB 2 PCI card will fix that).





G4 Cube

We admit we've included this largely for sentimental reasons: units don't come up for sale very often and aren't necessarily a great buy, with limited performance and upgrade potential, and glitchy tendencies. But - well, just look at it!

Don't pay more than: £100, unless you're as sentimental as us.

Will run: Mac OS X up to 10.5 (Leopard), though officially only 10.4.

Advantages: Unless modified, the Cube has no fan and is almost totally silent; great conversation piece; uses desktop components, so some upgrades are possible.

Disadvantages: Cult status means sellers may overprice; compare Mac mini. Plastic can crackle - ask seller; most units CD only, none burn DVDs.



Power Mac G5

The predecessor of today's Mac Pro, this sleek aluminium tower (2003-2006) was the last Mac before the switch to Intel, coveted by aficionados of old-school software. Available with one processor (SP), two processors (DP), one dual-core processor (DC) or two dual-core processors (DP DC, aka Quad).

Don't pay more than: £150-£400 according to spec.

Will run: Mac OS X up to 10.5 (Leopard).

Advantages: Best performance from a pre-Intel Mac; at reasonable prices if you shop with care; can take 16GB RAM; USB2.

Disadvantages: Some single-core models had noise issues (<http://support.apple.com/kb/TS2033>) - check with the seller.



iMac G4

Known as the Anglepoise iMac (after the patented desk lamp), this unique model is said to have been inspired by Luxo Jr in the short film that launched Steve Jobs' film company, Pixar. LCD isn't as bright or sharp as today's displays, but it's still on a cool Mac.

Don't pay more than: £100 (15-inch), £150 (17-inch).

Will run: Mac OS X up to 10.5 (Leopard), though officially only 10.4.

Advantages: Striking and sturdy design with highly adjustable screen position; good Harman Kardon external speakers - check they're included.

Disadvantages: No way to add USB 2, though some users report iPhone will connect, with occasional glitches; RAM and hard disk can be small.

PowerBook G4

The G5 chip never took a portable form, so the G4 was the last Apple laptop before the switch to Intel. It resembles current MacBooks but has a more traditional keyboard. Numerous models were produced in 12, 15 and 17-inch formats, so studying the specs is essential to get the right deal.

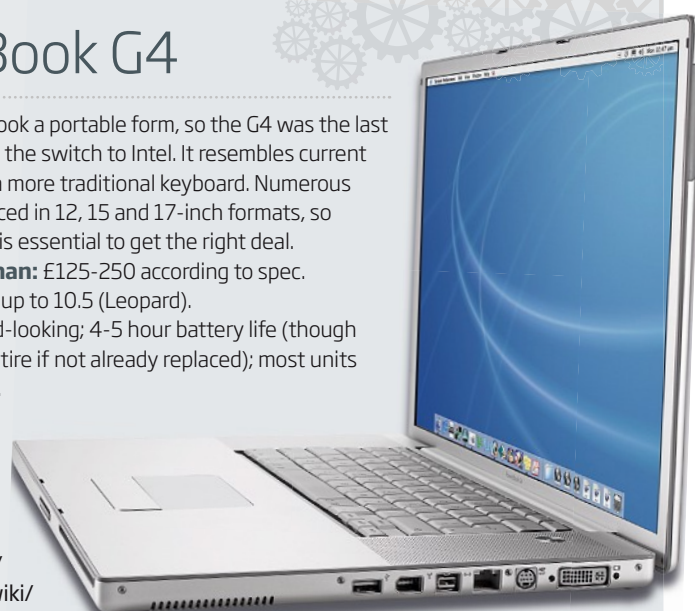
Don't pay more than: £125-250 according to spec.

Will run: Mac OS X up to 10.5 (Leopard).

Advantages: Good-looking; 4-5 hour battery life (though original battery will tire if not already replaced); most units have USB 2 - check.

Disadvantages:

Avoid titanium-cased version; beware quality issues with certain batches: see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PowerBook_G4.



Upgrade your Mac

Let's take a look at the hardware upgrade options at your disposal

>> QUICK TIP

Converting videos for use on your iPod, iPhone, iPad or the web takes older Macs a long time, so why not take some of the load off your processor with Elgato's turbo.264 accelerator. You can find out more at www.elgato.com.

Find out your exact system specs with About This Mac.

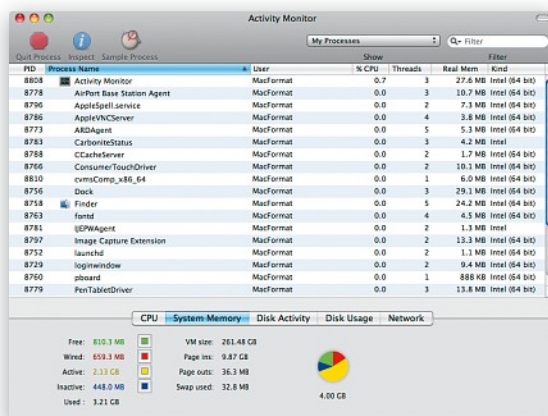


Perhaps you bought your Mac more than five years ago; if so, you're likely lusting over the newer models and their impressive specifications. But a new Mac doesn't have to be the answer if you want to improve performance or make use of the latest software that demands higher requirements. A few simple hardware upgrades could offer an inexpensive way to boost performance and elevate your Mac to a more up-to-date state.

The first thing you need to find out is what upgrades are available for your specific machine. If you're a Mac Pro or PowerMac user, pop off the side of the casing for easy access when adding or replacing hard drives, new RAM or even new optical drives, such as DVD and Blu-Ray. More advanced upgrades include swapping the processor, although this is a job best left to the professionals. More compact Macs like the iMac and Mac mini have easily upgradeable RAM chips, but things become a little more complex if you want to swap drives or processors, due to the design of the computers and their tightly packed parts. Laptops suffer the same upgrade issues, with only RAM and, in some cases, the hard drive being readily accessible. More difficult-to-access parts are best left alone or in the hands of a trained professional.

Ramp up your RAM

Upgrading your Mac's RAM is one of the most effective and easiest upgrades to perform. Installing more RAM speeds up your Mac's performance by assigning more data to the chips and relying less on the hard disk, which makes launching and switching between apps quicker, avoiding the spinning beach ball.



If you're seeing mainly yellows and reds on this pie chart then it could be beneficial to performance if you topped up your RAM.

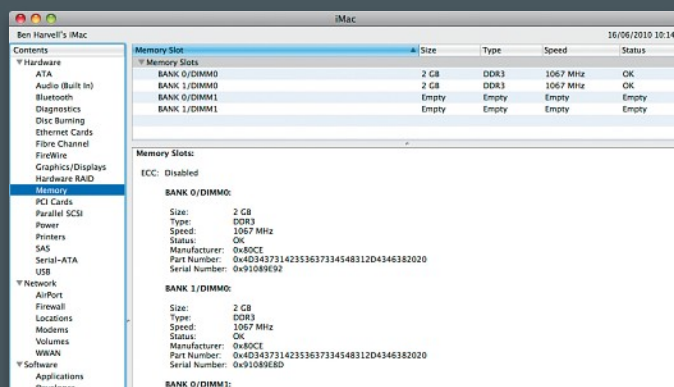
Most systems provide a convenient hatch for you to remove and slot RAM into, however older computers may require you to remove a portion of the casing in order to gain access. Early iMac G5 models, for example, require you to remove the rear of the computer in order to locate the RAM slots, but the latest 27-inch models provide a small bay underneath the screen that can be opened using a screwdriver, with no need to open the whole computer up. Mac minis are similarly simple to open and swap RAM, as are Mac Pros and PowerMacs. MacBooks, iBooks and PowerBooks all differ, with some requiring the keyboard to be removed, while others allow access via the battery bay beneath the laptop. Full instructions on replacing RAM for your chosen system can be found in the manual that came with your Mac and also online at www.apple.com/support.

Before you head out to buy your RAM there are a number of things you need to research to ensure compatibility. First you will need to know the maximum

>> HOW TO / Check your RAM

Before you opt to upgrade your RAM, check how much is being used with Mac OS X's *Activity Monitor*, which can be found in your **Applications** folder or via **Spotlight**. Clicking on the **System Memory** tab will show you how much RAM is being used, and how much is free, using a coloured pie chart. If most of the chart is red or yellow, your RAM is being used heavily and the addition of more

will make a big difference. You can find out how much RAM you have currently installed by clicking on the Apple menu at the top-left of your desktop and then selecting **About This Mac** from the drop-down menu. Next to **Memory**, your currently installed RAM and RAM type will be listed. Click **More Info** then choose **Memory** to see how your RAM is configured and how many slots are available.



Information about your Mac's internal workings can be found in Activity Monitor.

amount of RAM your Mac supports, as it's not a simple case of bigger is better with every model, especially older machines. You'll also need to know what type of RAM your Mac uses and how many slots your computer has. Once you have this information, you can calculate how much RAM you need to buy and in what formation. Older Macs normally offer two slots; more recent models have four and accept different amounts of RAM per slot. By default, an older Mac will likely have two small RAM chips in two slots, such as two 256MB chips for a total of 500MB of RAM; newer machines will have two larger chips, such as a pair of 2GB chips for a total of 4GB.

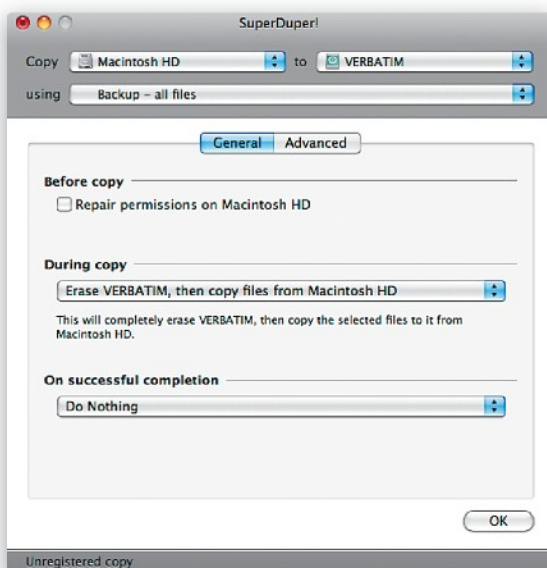
It is possible to mix and match chips if you're using a machine with two RAM slots, but it's best to replace both chips in a process called pairing, which will improve performance. Again, information on compatible chips for your computer can be found by searching Apple's support pages, where you will also find available configurations to

 *"Information on compatible chips for your computer can be found by searching Apple's support pages"*

help you decide on the RAM you need to buy. To make things easier for DIY upgraders, websites like Crucial.com help you find the right RAM by asking you questions about your Mac or by scanning your system.

Drive dilemmas

Beyond RAM, available hard disk space also plays a large part in the speed of your computer. Macs make use of free hard drive space as virtual memory, so the more of it there is available, the more it can use. It's a good idea to keep at least one quarter of your total drive space free for this purpose but, with smaller hard drives found in older Mac's or laptops plus ever-growing media libraries, it's not always



Use SuperDuper! to back up your hard drive before replacing it.



an easy thing to do. In order to make more space available there are a couple of options open to you. The first doesn't involve any dissection of your system but merely the purchase of an external hard drive. If you have a giant *iPhoto* library or collection of music and movies, off-loading your media to your new disk could free up valuable gigabytes on your main hard drive and improve speed. Alternatively, you could replace your existing hard drive which, depending on your Mac model, isn't always as scary as it sounds. PowerMac and Mac Pro users have the option to add an additional hard drive into one of the available bays, whereas all other Mac users will have to perform the slightly fiddly task of replacing their existing drive. The cost of storage, both internal and external, has dropped dramatically in recent years and for under £100 you can pick up a 1TB hard drive to double, if not triple the storage space on your existing hard drive.

Copying data across

The first thing you need to do when opting for this method is to make a copy of your original hard drive in order to transfer it to your new disk. This can be done using a FireWire connection to another Mac, an external hard drive or a variety of applications, such as *SuperDuper!* which creates a clone of your hard drive, ready to be copied to your new drive. Once you have your files securely backed up, the choice of drive and the process of upgrading is, once again, dependent on your Mac model.

Apple's support pages will offer all you need to know about the upgrade options available, as well as the dimensions of the drive you need to buy. Most desktop Macs use 3.5-inch SATA hard drives, while laptops use 2.5-inch versions. If you're in any doubt, some retailers have sections of their website dedicated to selecting the right drive for your computer. As an alternative to a standard hard drive, a larger cash outlay will provide you with a solid-state drive that uses less power and is far faster than a traditional drive. Capacity and cost are the compromise here, with a 128GB drive costing around £200 or more. If, however, a solid-state drive is compatible with your Mac, the performance boost is worth investigating.

If you've got the money to spend, replacing your existing hard drive with a more expensive solid-state model will boost performance.

>> QUICK TIP

 If you do decide to perform your own upgrades on an old iMac, note that, as a general rule of thumb, customer-removable screws are brass coloured. Removing a non-brass coloured screw could void your warranty, so make sure you follow official instructions carefully.



Tweaking for speed

Sort out your apps and optimise OS X for maximum performance

>> QUICK TIP

Thinking ahead can really help you prevent your Mac from grinding to a halt. Keep things clean and tidy by only installing software you really need and frequently checking for apps you are not using and deleting them.

While hardware is a significant factor, it's not the only cause of sub-par performance from your Mac. There are a variety of settings and applications that can make even simple tasks take an aeon to complete. A lot of the time you won't even know these resource-draining apps or processes are running until you start wondering why a task that once took seconds now leaves you twiddling your thumbs for minutes. Changing the way your Mac boots up, which applications you leave running and which you keep closed until needed will make a big difference to your Mac's performance and won't cost you a penny either.

Limiting login items

The first place to investigate is your Mac's *System Preferences* pane, which can be a stronghold for system sappers if you don't keep on top of things. Start by heading to the *Accounts* section and clicking on the *Login Items* tab. The list that appears includes all of the software that launches when your Mac boots up. Do you really need all of them to fire up automatically and begin eating away at your precious RAM? Did you even know half of them were there in the first place? The cunning checkbox next to each name hides an application at startup so you won't see the app launch, but it will still sit in the background slowing things down without you even realising. During installation, some applications add themselves to this list automatically when they really don't need to be there, so simply click on the app's name and then click the minus button to remove the app from your startup items. Of course, there are some apps, such



Unwanted preference panes waste space and slow things down. Clean out those you don't use for a potential speed boost.

as antivirus tools, that you might want running from the get-go, so think carefully before removing an app from the startup list.

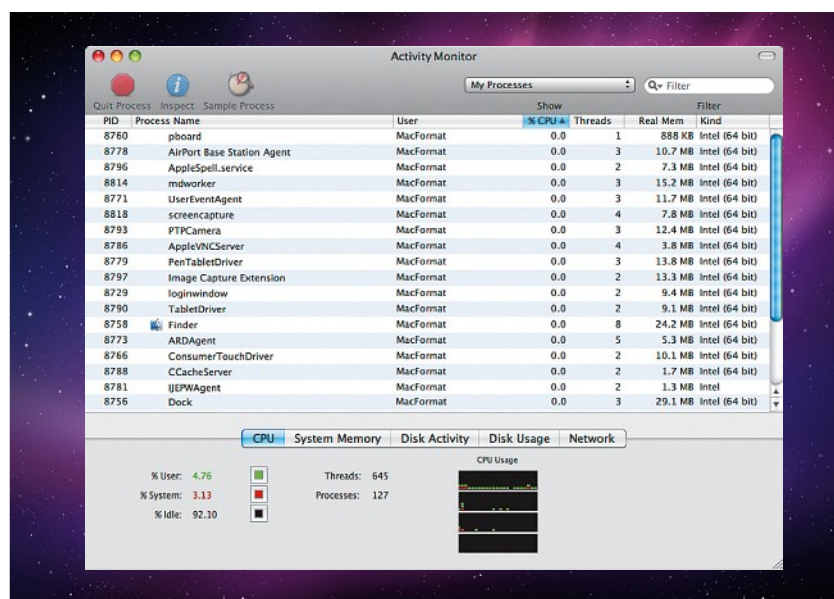
Punishing preferences

Moving back to the main *System Preferences* pane, take a look at what appears in the *Other* section. This is where third-party, non-Apple apps find a home for their preferences and, again, rarely ask your permission to set up camp. You'll likely spot a few apps that you use all the time, but perhaps there are some that you rarely use or installed as a one-off and they are now merely wasting space and potential speed. If you're lucky, the app's preference pane will include an uninstall button but, more often than not, they don't. In this case, simply hold down the **⌘** key or right-click on the pane you want to remove and then click the **Remove Preference Pane** button. This not only removes the pane from *System Preferences* but also the *prefPane* file from your Mac's hard disk, so double-check that it's not an essential item before removing it entirely.

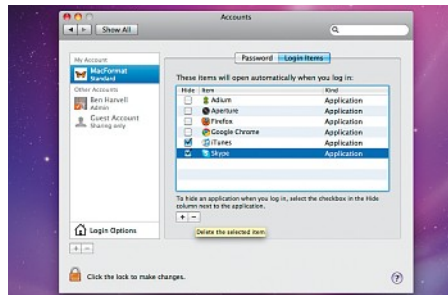
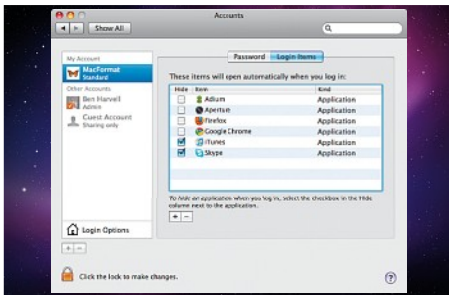
Resource hogs

Preventing apps from launching automatically is one thing but, of course, you do need to run them sometime, so it's always handy to know which software demands the most attention from your system. Launching *Activity Monitor* (via the *Applications* folder or *Spotlight*) while you're running a bunch of programs will tell you the exact percentage of your CPU being used by each. You can also sort the list of processes by CPU percentage so the most

Find out which apps are making a dent in your RAM and CPU performance with OS X's Activity Monitor.



>> HOW TO / Reduce startup time by removing login items



01 Preference pane

From the **Apple** menu, select **System Preferences** to launch the *System Preferences* pane and then click on the **Accounts** option under the **System** section. Select your account from the list on the left and then click the **Login Items** tab.

02 Login list

All of the apps and services listed here launch when your Mac starts up. Those with a checked box next to them will be hidden when they launch. To prevent an item launching at startup, click on it and then click the minus button below the list.

03 Add apps

If you accidentally remove an app you wanted to launch at startup, you can add items to the list by clicking the plus button and choosing the application from the window that appears. Check the box next to the app in order to hide it when it launches.

draining apps appear at the top, and you can also see how much real and virtual memory each process is using. The list constantly changes as each application requests more processing power, but you can build up a pretty decent picture of the apps that ask a lot of your Mac and close them down quickly between uses. Apple's own *iTunes* is, sadly, still quite a memory hog, as is *Microsoft Office*, so make sure you close them each time you're done before moving on to new tasks. As we mentioned before, some apps need to be run constantly and, as a result, frequently demand a portion of your Mac's available memory and CPU. Even so, investigate whether limiting options are available, such as scanning the system less frequently or setting backups to run when you're not using your Mac.

"Jump into your Dashboard and see how many widgets you have running, then limit yourself to the essentials"

When Apple introduced Mac OS X Tiger, everybody loved the new *Dashboard* feature with its clever little widgets. This euphoria managed to hide the fact that these *Dashboard* widgets, especially those created by third-parties, are essentially a bunch of little apps that are constantly running, often accessing the web for data, and launch whenever your computer is turned on. Jump into your *Dashboard* and see how many widgets you currently have running and then limit yourself to the essentials, using the **Widget Manager** (the plus sign) to disable the rest. You might be surprised at the speed bump you get.

Clear out your apps

Cunning tips for speeding up your Mac may make a world of difference, but there's a tried-and-tested method for sprucing up your system that has worked on almost every



Clearing out your Applications folder by uninstalling apps will save space and speed up your system.

computer ever made and still works today – deleting unwanted apps. It's all too easy to spot an interesting bit of free software, download it and then forget about it, or to try out a bunch of new web browsers, decide on one and leave the rest languishing in your **Applications** folder, wasting space. Space isn't the only problem here either, since when each application installs it spills out a whole mess of preferences and support files into different directories on your Mac, meaning simply deleting the application itself won't remove them. Where possible, use the app's uninstall option or try out *App Zapper* (www.appzapper.com) which quickly and effectively clears out any reference to an application on your Mac, including all its related files dotted around your system. The basic version of the app is available for free and can get rid of unwanted software in a single click.

>> QUICK TIP

Scheduled maintenance can be a good thing. Set your Mac to perform backups and other system tasks at times when you're not using it, or start file transfers and syncs running before you go to bed so they don't slow you down during the day.

Keep OS X lean & mean

Discover how to cut the fat from OS X with the minimum of fuss

» QUICK TIP

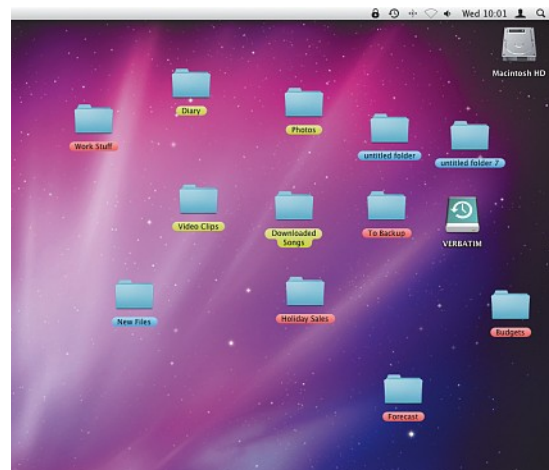
Virtualisation tools like *VMware Fusion* and *Parallels* that let you run Windows on your Mac can slow things down to a crawl. Turn them off unless you absolutely have to use them and make sure you keep your Windows partition as tidy as your Mac to save space.

So far we've covered upgrading your system, cutting down on resource-hogging apps and freeing up space on your drive, but there are a few more bits of housekeeping left to guarantee a smooth-running Mac. As well as some very simple rules to adhere to, we've also included some more drastic solutions if you're looking for the ultimate in Mac detoxification.

Desktop icons

Kicking off with a simple one, did you know that every icon on your desktop uses system resources? That's right, even that folder with nothing in it that you keep meaning to delete is sucking up valuable bytes. Everybody knows the value of a tidy desktop but not everyone realises that it could improve your Mac's performance as well. Try to keep desktop icons to a minimum and use the *Finder's* preferences to prevent Mac OS X showing hard disks, external disks, CDs, DVDs and iPods or connected servers on your desktop. Obviously, a completely clean desktop is best but a few essential icons won't hurt.

And while we're on the topic of very simple tips, when did you last empty your trash? It seems crazy to think this could make much of a difference but if you don't clear out the trash on a regular basis you can soon rack up hundreds of megabytes hanging in limbo waiting for their demise, all of which are wasting valuable space. Make sure you at



Icons on your desktop can cause unnecessary strain on your system. Keep a tidy ship for a simple but effective tweak.

least empty the trash at the end of each day to avoid an unwanted build-up of throwaway files.

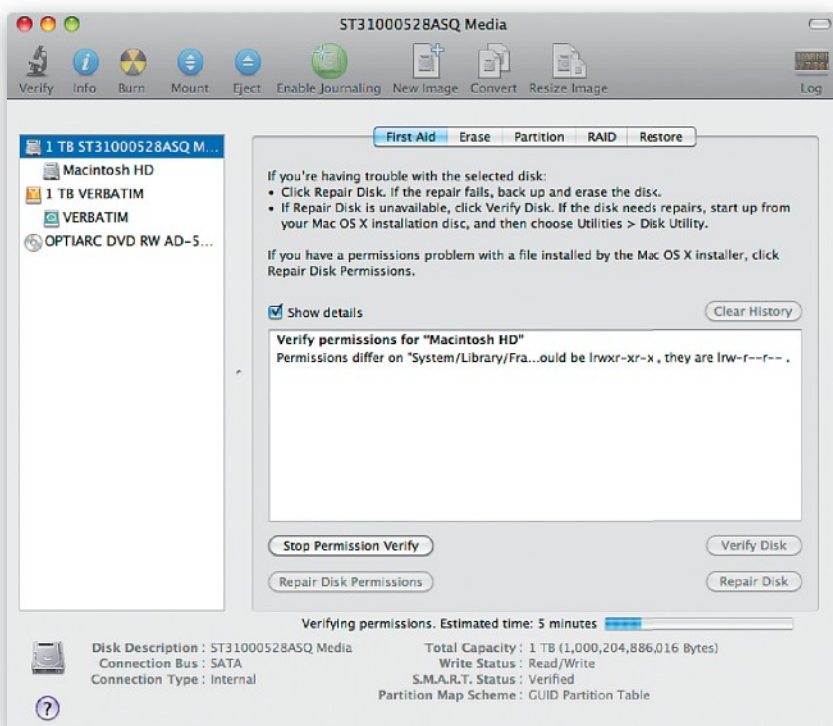
Ask permission

Hidden away in the *Utilities* folder, within your Mac's *Applications* folder, is a little app called *Disk Utility*. You may have used it before for restoring or formatting drives, but it also offers a pair of useful tools to keep your Mac in tip-top shape, namely the *Verify* and *Repair Disk Permissions* options. Over time, these permissions can become confused as you install new software, leading your Mac to slow down and, in some cases, prevent apps from launching at all. While it sounds like a complex task, repairing permissions is a very simple process. Clicking the *Repair Disk Permissions* button is all you need to do; then wait as *Disk Utility* does all the work. Any permissions that aren't as they should be are made right and your system should purr along nicely after this quick but effective fix that should only take around five minutes to complete.

Switch off non-essentials

Apple includes some great features in its operating systems, but some do push slower Macs a little too far and therefore need to be tweaked in order to maintain system harmony. One such feature is *Spotlight*, the handy search tool that sits at the top-right of your Mac's screen and finds files, folders and applications for you in a flash. In order to work this fast, *Spotlight* needs to continuously index your Mac's hard drive so it knows where everything is at all times. As a result, it takes up memory and accesses the disk while it does this. If you head to *Spotlight* from the *System Preferences* pane you can stop *Spotlight* indexing categories of files and folders that you don't want

Make sure you repair permissions regularly using *Disk Utility*.

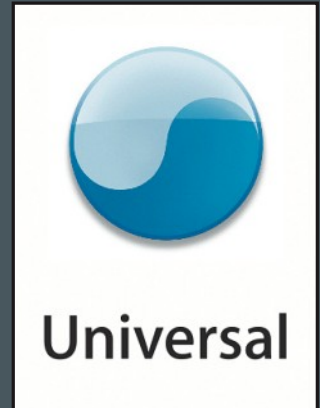


>> UNIVERSAL BINARIES / An issue for your old Mac?

Back during the transition from PowerPC to Intel Macs, we had to wait for developers to catch up and provide software that ran natively on both platforms. Applications not compatible with Intel-based Macs use Apple's Rosetta, a piece of software that translates an app's code so that it can run, albeit at the expense of performance. While most apps are now Universal Binaries, meaning they run on PowerPC and Intel, non-Universal apps will still call in the skills of

Rosetta and produce a subsequent system lag. Check all of your apps to make sure they are Universal Binaries and if any aren't, check for updates from the developer.

For those still using a PowerPC-based Mac, you'll need to look out for Universal Binaries too, but also watch out for applications that are Intel-only - of which there are many. Remember, any software that requires OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard) is by definition an Intel-only application.



to search for and in doing so can prevent quite so much work from going on in the background. The Dock is another pretty but unnecessarily draining OS X feature that can be customised in order to free up a few resources. Turning off **Magnification**, changing the **Minimize** setting to **Scale effect** rather than **Genie effect** and unchecking the **Animate opening applications** box in *System Preferences* should offer a small but important performance boost to older Macs. Let's face it, they might look good, but what do these little animations really do other than slow you down?

Stay up to date

If you're using an older Mac, you may not be able to enjoy all of the performance enhancing goodness of Snow Leopard, but Apple hasn't forgotten about you just yet. Apple still releases software updates for older Macs and their software - even for PowerPC machines - and installing them will bolster your ageing Mac's performance

"Apple still releases software updates for older Macs and software - installing them will bolster performance"

to the best of its ability. The same is true of the applications you have installed and the drivers for your printers, scanners and other software. Make sure they're all up to date to keep them running smoothly and free of bugs that are often ironed out with updates. You can access *Software Update* from the Apple menu at the top-left of your screen; it checks for new updates when clicked.

If nothing seems to be working for you or you're after the most drastic solution possible to enhance your Mac's performance, this is it. Wipe your Mac and start over again (we said it was drastic). The benefit of performing this sweeping move is that all of the clutter, the erroneous files and the CPU-munching background tasks are wiped out, leaving you with a Mac as virginal and pure as the day you bought it. The downside, obviously, is that you'll have



Cut out non-essential file types from Spotlight's indexing activity to prevent any potential lags.

to reinstall all of your software, find a place to store your music, movies and photos and re-home all of your important documents while you refresh the system. You can make a clone of your system, but you're essentially just putting the same old clutter back onto a clean machine. It's a far better plan to simply cherry-pick the essential items you need to keep and start afresh.

So there you have it - a selection of ways in which you can speed up your Mac, regardless of its age, and claw back some extra disk space while you're at it. However, in the style of Steve Jobs, there is 'one more thing' you should remember to do at least once per week to keep your Mac running at its best. Restart. Yes, we've saved the simplest tip for last, but it's a magical technique that, thanks to the Mac's Sleep settings, is all too easy to forget. Shutting down and rebooting is a rejuvenating process for your Mac that allows it to clear out the memory. Given how far we've come in terms of technology, it's funny, perhaps reassuring, to think that the old 'turn it off and on again' trick remains a proven solution to this day. ●

>> QUICK TIP

If *Safari* has become a little slow, try clearing its cache and browsing history to freshen things up. When using *Safari*, **⌘ + ⌘ + E** will empty the cache while the history can be cleared from the **History** menu.



Your Guitar Tone On Your iPhone

Introducing AmpliTube® iRig™
Take your Amps & Pedals anywhere with you on your iPhone/iPod/iPad

AmpliTube iRig is the unique combination of an ultra-compact plug-in adapter and a mobile app that turns your iPhone, iPod touch, iPad into the ultimate mobile guitar/bass tone and effects processor. Play anytime and everywhere with your favourite gear right on your iPhone, from the leaders of professional gear modelling software. Choose from up to 11 effects (including distortion, chorus, delay, wah, flanger and more), 5 amps, 5 cabinets, 2 microphones, all reconfigurable and fully "tweakable" to suit your sonic taste.

Get the iRig adapter for less than £30 and download the free version of AmpliTube for iPhone. Then you can add your choice of stomps and amps a-la-carte starting at £1.79 each - or step up to the full featured mobile app for only £11.99 which includes 23 gear models for guitar and bass. Get more info now:

www.amplitude.com/irig

Download the FREE version from the iTunes App Store!

Available on the App Store



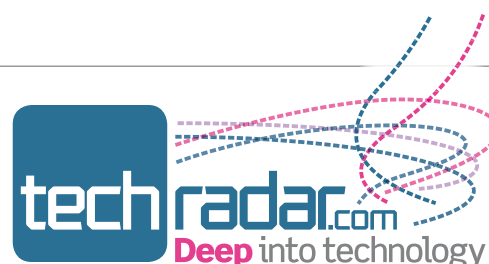
IK Multimedia. Musicians First.

iPhone®, iPod touch®, iPad™ are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

News with a view _

TechRadar.com covers the stories you want to talk about _

So come along and talk. If you're passionate about technology, you'll find lots to keep you interested and plenty of ways to have your say.



*"Neater than attacking
a 6x4-inch print with
a pair of scissors"*

PERFORMING CUTOUTS IN PHOTOSHOP P44

In this issue...

PHOTOS

Create cutouts in Photoshop	44
Compare shots in iPhoto	46
Create a perfect slideshow	48

MOVIES

Master advanced iMovie edits	50
------------------------------	----

OFFICE

Keep your life in sync	52
Subscribe to calendars in iCal	56
Make a full backup of your Mac	58
Perform calculations faster	60
Organise Pages documents	62

SYSTEM

Strange folders	65
Get even more from Finder	66
Find your way around Safari 5	68



How to...

● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM



Christopher Phin
Deputy Editor

Other Mac magazines and websites have a terrible tendency, I note, to cover only those things that are new and shiny, so I'm proud that, at *MacFormat*, we don't just let ourselves get distracted by novelty. For example, starting on page 66, we've dedicated a couple of pages in this issue's tutorial section to getting to grips with the least-exciting of apps ever, *Finder*.

It may not be a pretty bauble of an app, but all of us use the *Finder* day in, day out, and I think it's important that we bend it to our will. (We occasionally get a note from

some readers, incidentally, who don't like that we tend to rapidly shift our focus to the newest operating system from Apple; the simple truth, though, is that the majority of our readers upgrade pretty much instantly, and we have to adapt ourselves to reflect that.)

There's a ton of other stuff, of course. We show you how to structure documents in *Pages*, create a bootable clone of your Mac's hard disk, subscribe to calendars in *iCal* and much more besides.

And as always, if you'd like us to cover other tasks, get in touch; see page 125.



» DID YOU KNOW?

The backlight on your Mac's built-in or external display consumes a lot of power. You can sleep the display - but keep the Mac itself running - by tapping **⌘ + ⌘ + ⌘**.



BEFORE: The duck in this image had been cut out separately, so adding it here was a doddle.

AFTER: Once it was added as a new layer it was quickly rotated and resized, and the job was done.



Create cutouts in Photoshop

Cutouts may look tricky, but a little know-how can make all the difference

»» KEY INFO



DIFFICULTY:
Advanced



TIME NEEDED:
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Adobe Photoshop or Elements

To create realistic-looking photo montages you have to master the art of cutouts, and for that there's no substitute for practice. You need to know which selection tool to use and how to get the best from it; you also need a good deal of patience for when things don't go right.

This is why it's best to use a 'non-destructive' masking technique. You could just try to get your selection right first time and then delete the background, but there's no way back from here. There are always going to be bits that didn't work quite right and there will be no easy way to fix them apart from going back to the beginning and starting again.

Photoshop experts would take a different approach, using a layer

mask to hide the unwanted background rather than simply deleting it. Where the mask has gone wrong, you can simply rework it – the full image is still there.

Unfortunately, that's not an option in *Elements* because it doesn't support layer masks. But there is a very similar technique you can use based on 'clipping groups', which is just as effective. Fortunately this works the same way in both *Photoshop* and *Elements*.

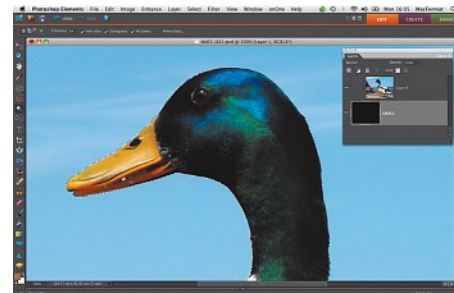
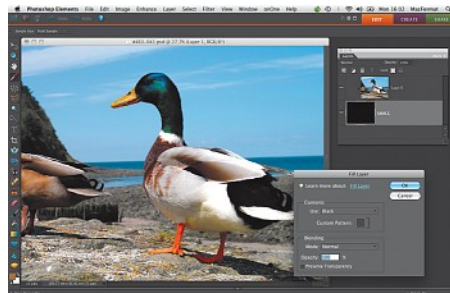
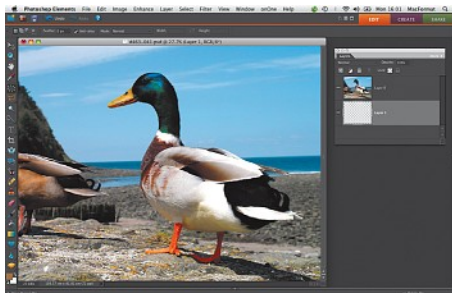
"You need patience to get it right, which is why it's best to use a non-destructive masking technique"

So you've got your cutout, but what then? You can save it in the *Photoshop* format, which will preserve both the image layer and the clipping mask, but that's not much help if you want to use it online or in a desktop publishing app.

The answer lies in the TIFF format, which supports image transparency, and the PNG format, which does the same for online graphics. You can (and probably should) still save the original *Photoshop* file, but saving a copy in either of these other formats will make the cutout much easier to use. It makes sense to create and save a cutout separately before layering it with another image, since you never know when you might want to use it again.

Rod Lawton

>> HOW TO / Create a convincing cutout



01 Prepare your layers

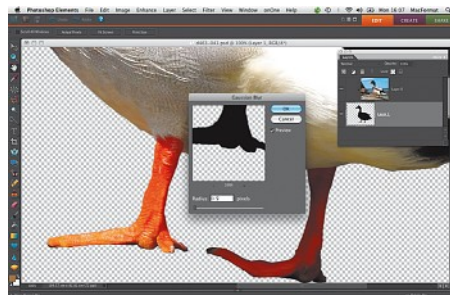
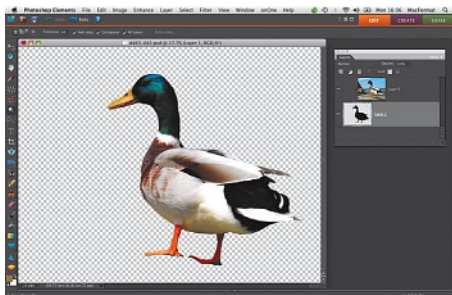
To create the cutout, first double-click the **Background** image layer to promote it to a full layer (background layers don't support transparency). Then create a new, blank layer and drag it down below the image layer. This layer is going to be the 'mask' for the cutout.

02 Create a 'clipping mask'

Hold down the  key and move the pointer between the two layer thumbnails in the **Layers** palette - you should see it change to the 'clipping' symbol. If you click now, the upper (image) layer is indented and becomes invisible; colour-fill the bottom layer to make it visible.

03 Selection tool options

Now with the bottom layer selected, start deleting the background around the subject you want to cut out. Use any selection tool you like for this, but if you're using the **Magic Wand** or **Quick Selection** brush, check the **Sample All Layers** box in the options bar.

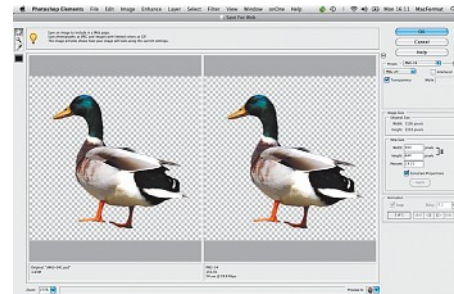
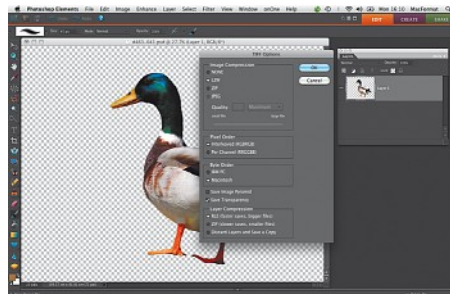
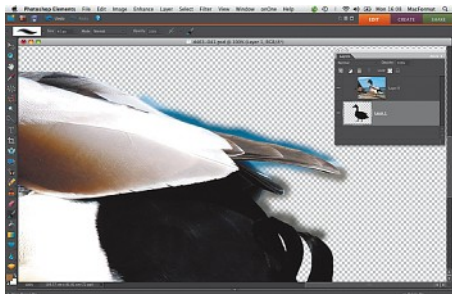


04 Mask your subject

You can now make selections based on the image, even though it's the bottom 'clipping' layer that's selected. When deleting unwanted background areas, you're actually deleting that part of the clipping mask - the background in the image layer is being hidden, not deleted.

05 'Feather' the mask

This is similar to a layer mask - the image itself is still intact - but you've used another layer to hide parts you don't want. This 'clipping mask' is based on transparency rather than greys, but you can modify it similarly - to 'feather' it, try a **Gaussian Blur** of 0.5 pixels.



06 Repair and rework

You may also find there are parts of the cutout that don't work too well and need to be redone, like the outline of these feathers. Paint over the problem area on the clipping layer with the brush tool. This restores selection visibility and you can try again with the selection tools.

07 Save a TIFF

You can save the finished cutout as a *Photoshop* file, but for simplicity's sake a **TIFF** file could be more useful. In the **Save as** dialog, make sure the **Layers** box is checked, and in the **TIFF Options** dialog which pops up next, check the **Save Transparency** box near the bottom.

08 Save for the web

If you want to use the image on a web page, use the **Save for Web** dialog. Before you do anything else, enter the pixel dimensions you need. Next, choose the file format. Use the **24-bit PNG** format and make sure the **Transparency** box is checked. ●

>> QUICK TIP

If you save your cutouts as **TIFFs** (see Step 7), you can drag them directly onto other images to create montages. Sometimes, though, the lighting just isn't quite right. Here, the duck's legs need to be in shadow to match the rest of the scene. The solution? A couple of minutes' work with the **Burn** tool - easy.

Comparing images on the same screen is useful for choosing the best photo.



Compare shots in iPhoto

How do you sort out good shots from duds? By using the Compare feature

»» KEY INFO



DIFFICULTY:
Intermediate



TIME NEEDED:
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

iPhoto '06 or later

The great thing about digital cameras is that photos cost nothing to shoot. The downside of this is that it's very tempting to take dozens of near-identical shots of the same subject 'just in case', or for later sorting. It's easily done. You know you've got a great subject in front of you, but you can't quite decide on the best angle, so you shoot them all. Maybe you're worried about camera shake and you want to take several shots to be sure of getting a good one. Digital SLR owners often get in the habit of shooting raw files as well as JPEGs, too, so that iPhoto ends up with two different versions of every shot. Until Apple introduces a stacking feature like the one in

Aperture, this kind of duplication just multiplies your problems when you're trying to get your photos organised.

It really can become quite an issue. Your iPhoto library can get bunged up with countless second-rate images, making it hard to spot the good ones. And it's easy to underestimate the time it takes to examine them properly, meaning that for many of us it's a job that's put off indefinitely.

"It's very tempting to take dozens of shots of the same subject 'just in case', or for later sorting"

However, iPhoto has a Compare feature that makes this job a lot simpler. You're still going to have to spend a bit of time going through your photos, but with this feature you can quickly choose which pictures you want to compare and examine them both at full size and under magnification.

And it doesn't stop there. While the Compare button appears to be designed for just two images, you can actually compare more than that. They don't have to be alongside each other in the filmstrip, and you can use all the regular iPhoto tools while you're in this comparison mode, too. It's another instance of iPhoto turning out to do rather more than it lets on...

Rod Lawton

» HOW TO / Use the Compare feature



01 Switch to full-screen view

Comparing photos is best done in full-screen mode for maximum space and no distractions. Let's say you've got a single image displayed, as here. Move the mouse pointer to the bottom of the screen to display the toolbar and look for the **Compare** button on the left.



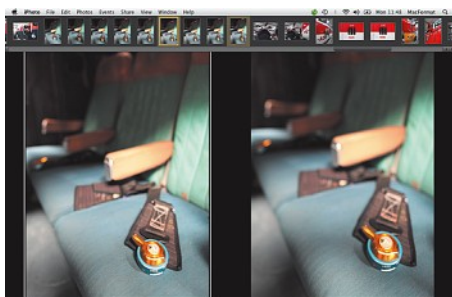
02 The Compare button

iPhoto displays two photos side-by-side; mouse over to the top of the screen to display the filmstrip and you'll see that it's selected the next picture in the list for the comparison. But what if the two images we want to compare aren't adjacent, or we want to compare more?



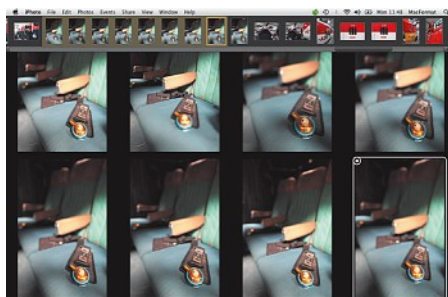
03 Select images

Here's another example, where the subject's in poor light and several versions were taken. We've started with a side-by-side comparison of two images. Note that when you click on an image it's highlighted with a thicker border and has a 'close' button, top-left.



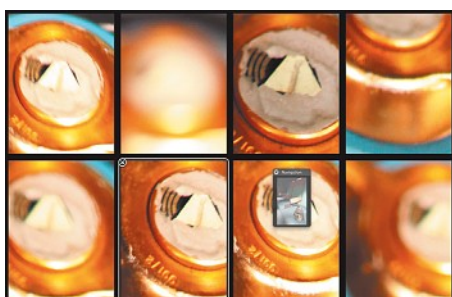
04 Choose other images

Navigate to the top of the screen to select any other image in the filmstrip, and this is displayed instead. You can think of the images as being in separate 'windows', and you can use the filmstrip to choose the images to display in each window.



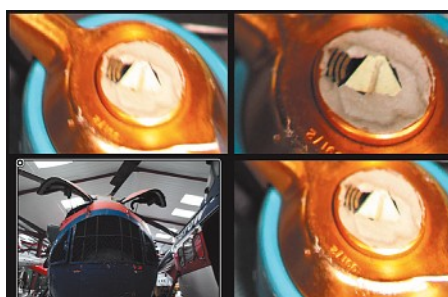
05 Add or remove images

The **Compare** button starts off by comparing just two images, but iPhoto can display up to eight at a time. Just **⌘**-click the extra images - the ones already selected are shrunk and shunted up to make space. (You can also **⌘**-click the images on the filmstrip directly.)



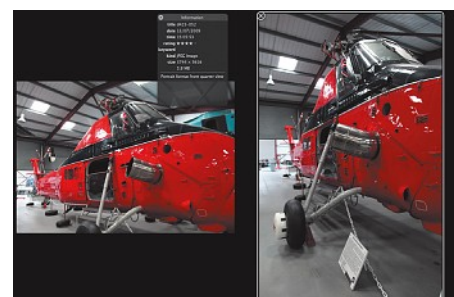
06 Zoom in

Being able to compare more images is useful if we want to find the sharpest; this means zooming in on specific areas. To do this, click on each image in turn, use the **⌘**+**1** shortcut to zoom to 100%, then use the **Navigation** palette to move to a specific area.



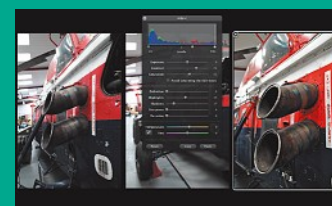
07 Delete images

It's obvious now which images are the sharpest, and we can either delete (**⌘**+**L**) or hide (**⌘**+**L**) the others. The image you've deleted/hidden is replaced by another from the filmstrip to make up the numbers; to remove this from the filmstrip, click its close gadget, top left.



08 The Info panel

The tools available when comparing images are the same as for single images. You can display the **Info** panel (far left on the toolbar at the bottom) and add ratings and descriptions to images. Make sure that you've got the right one highlighted, though! ●



» QUICK TIP

You can use all the usual editing tools while you're comparing images - all you have to do is make sure you've got the right one selected before you start making changes. Possible uses? Well, you could duplicate an image to create an edited version and display it side-by-side with the original as you work.

NEXT MONTH
Part 3: How to
 use Aperture to
 make photo
 books

Produce an
 impressive
 slideshow of
 your images
 with Aperture.



Create a perfect slideshow

Aperture isn't just for organising and editing shots: it can distribute them too

» KEY INFO



DIFFICULTY:
Intermediate



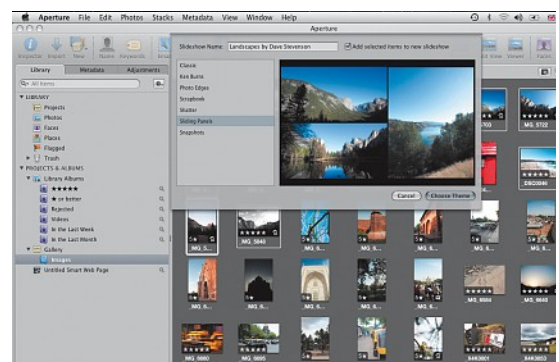
TIME NEEDED:
One hour

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Aperture 3, some photos

Last month, we saw how *Aperture 3* has the potential to revolutionise the workflow of keen photographers. Its organisational power – pulling images from all over your computer into coherent, easy-to-search projects and albums – means keeping track of your shots and mixing them together is easy. Meanwhile, its vast number of editing options means you can take your flat raw files from your DSLR and make them shine.

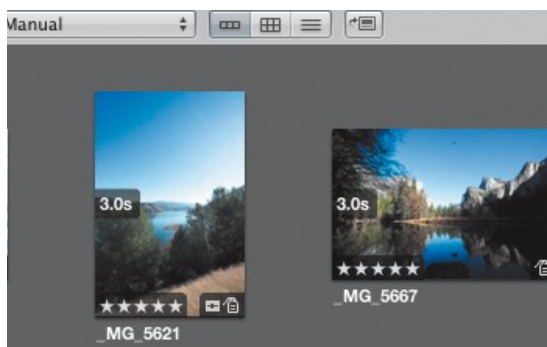
But with your shots organised and ranked, and your Smart Albums automatically dragging in new shots based on the criteria you set for them, it's time to share your images with the wider world. *Aperture* can create good-looking, usable websites in a few minutes, but being able to upload a site to your web space isn't always ideal. For one thing, you might not want your JPEGs to be online, or you might want to create an all-in-one multimedia treat for your fans, complete with audio and video. Using *Aperture's* slideshow capabilities will also enable you to create videos of your images for uploading to video-sharing sites such as YouTube.

Dave Stevenson



01 Select images

Choose the images you want to include. A good slideshow should be self-contained and have a narrative; if you plan to speak over it, make sure your images tell the same story. In this case we're using a selection of landscapes. Click **File**, then **New > Slideshow** and choose a theme. Note that portrait (tall) shots will leave thick black bars on the side of your screen in some themes.



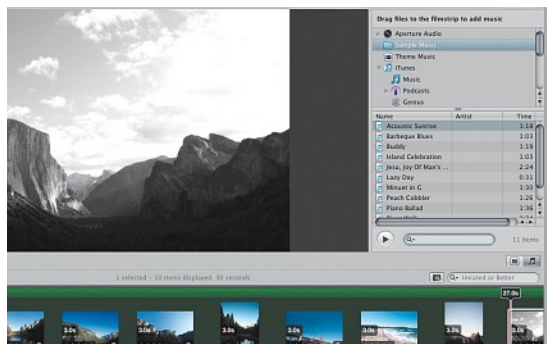
02 Order images

You can click **Export...** above the slideshow's preview to finish now, but by spending a little longer you'll get better results. The strip of images at the bottom shows you the image order - but you can change this by dragging them around. The number on each thumbnail shows the amount of seconds the image will be on screen.



03 Preview slideshow

Roll your mouse over the thumbnails to see how your slideshow looks at a given point. The 'play' arrow on the left sends *Aperture* into full-screen mode; the button next to it plays the slideshow in the preview window. Press **⌘** to see the slideshow from the start; **[space]** will pause and play from wherever the red time indicator is.



04 Add audio

Click the musical note top-right of the thumbnail filmstrip to choose a track from *iTunes* or *GarageBand* to play over the top of your slideshow. Click the name of a track and drag it onto the filmstrip. By dragging your track into the background of the filmstrip, the audio will start at the beginning of the show and fade out at the end.



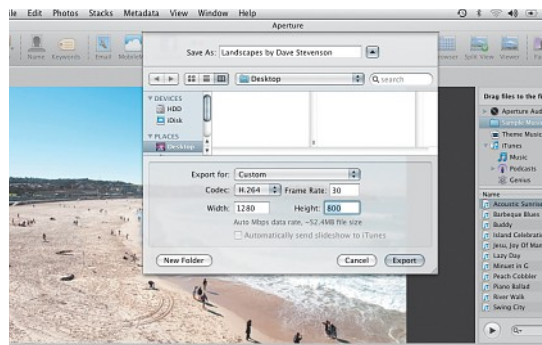
05 Set timings

The **Classic** and **Ken Burns** themes enable you to customise how long individual slides appear. Click the stopwatch icon above the filmstrip, then press **[space]** to start the slideshow. To move to the next picture, tap **⌘**. This is great if you have a prepared talk to go with your slides, or want certain images to appear for longer.



06 Edit individual images

If you decide an image could look better, click the **Show Viewer** for this **Browser** button above the filmstrip. This enables you to see a large version of your image. You can use the toolbar of buttons that appears for rotating, cropping or using brushes on your image, or you can switch to the **Adjustments** panel of the **Inspector**.



07 Export slideshow

Images in the right order? Slide durations looking right? Hit **Export...** in the top right-hand corner. If you're producing for an Apple device, choose it from the list. (The iPad isn't on there but it's a safe bet it will be soon.) If you want to get your work onto a DVD for distribution, select 720p video, then use *iMovie* and *iDVD* to create it. ●

EXPERT TIP



Aspect ratios

Choosing an aspect ratio in *Aperture* can be complicated - the thing to remember is that the aspect ratio you choose from the right-hand **Default Settings** toolbar will affect the resolution of the final video. Most widescreen TVs have an aspect ratio of 16:9, as do MacBooks, while the iPad and CRT TVs are 4:3. iPhones are 3:2, and many widescreen desktop displays are 16:10. If in doubt, select **HDTV** under **Aspect Ratio** - your slideshow might display with black bars on some screens but it won't look too bad. If you intend to present your photos professionally - at a talk, for instance - find out the aspect ratio of the display you'll be using and generate a slideshow at the correct aspect ratio.

» QUICK TIP

If parts of an image run off the top of the screen, click it in the preview window. This produces the **Image Scale** toolbox. You can zoom in and out to get the framing perfect, and you can click and drag your image around to draw in your viewers' attention.

Master advanced iMovie edits

Perform very precise cuts to your videos thanks to the Precision Editor

>>KEY INFO



DIFFICULTY:
Intermediate



TIME NEEDED:
20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

iMovie version 8 or higher, a project with some clips, a good understanding of the interface

When it comes to making it simple for novices, Apple has no equal in the movie-editing arena. The latest version of iMovie offers people simple tools to empower them and not be afraid of what is actually still a complex field.

Apple did this by removing much of what is expected in a video-editing program and rethinking the interface from the ground up. There is, for instance, no timeline, but instead a section showing your clips as if they were sentences in a *Word* document – they flow from left to right and top to bottom. When it comes to adding clips to your project, you see them by moving the cursor over their thumbnail and watching a preview at the top-right of the interface. Then you click and drag a selection to use and drag it to your project.

You can even edit your work further once it's in your project: you

have little arrow buttons that appear bottom left and right of your clip once the cursor's over it. Click on one to alter the start or end of your clip by adding or removing up to one second of footage.

But beneath its easy-to-use interface, iMovie has a powerful tool called the **Precision Editor**. Toggling it is like looking at your project through a magnifying glass. As it takes over the **Event** library section, you won't be able to add new clips to your project, but you can perform many functions on the ones you've already added. You can, for instance,

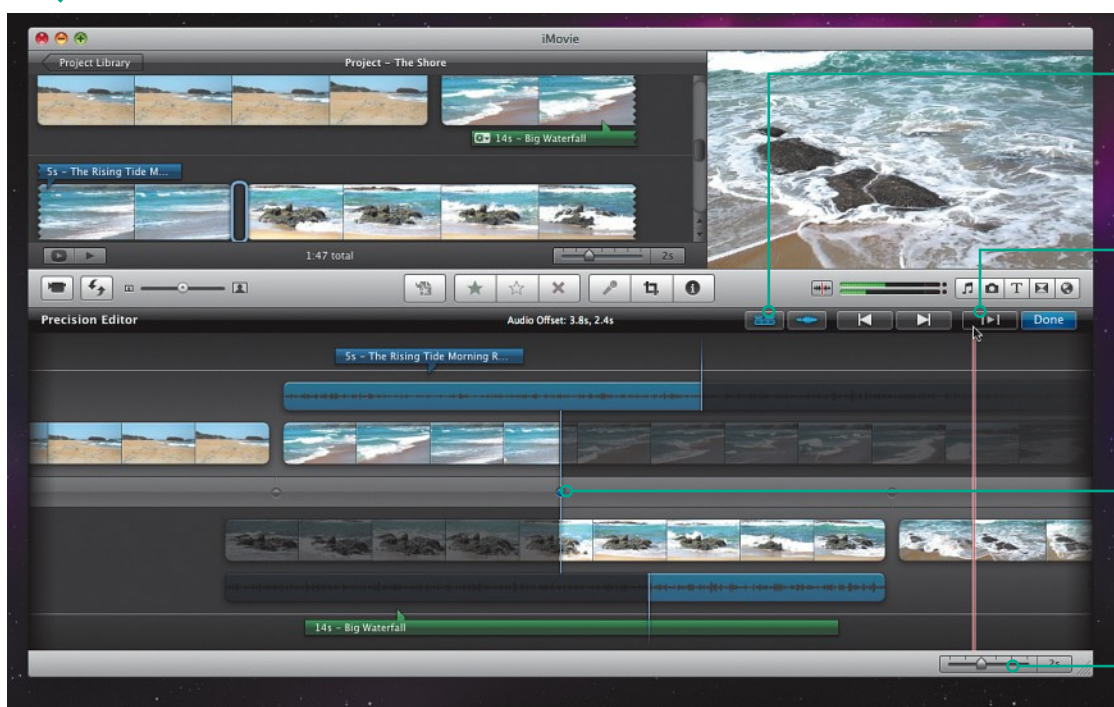
"Beneath its easy-to-use interface, iMovie features a powerful tool known as the Precision Editor"

increase or decrease the length of an existing clip and navigate through your entire project without ever having to leave the **Precision Editor**.

This tool is there to help you trim your footage so that it looks exactly right: you can change when you'll cut to the next clip and although you can do this by trimming the clip in the **Project** section, the **Precision Editor** feels much more organic and gives you greater versatility. Not only that, you can also modify your clip's audio independently from the video, meaning you could cut to another clip while still hearing the audio from the previous one. Again, you could do this by extracting your clip's audio straight from the **Project** section, but the **Precision Editor** offers you much greater accuracy and you won't accidentally make the video out of sync with the audio that way.

Steve Paris

>>QUICK LOOK / iMovie's edit-friendly interface



See extras

This button lets you see additional items such as titles, music and other audio tracks.

Preview the edit

To see how your edit looks before and after the cut, click here.

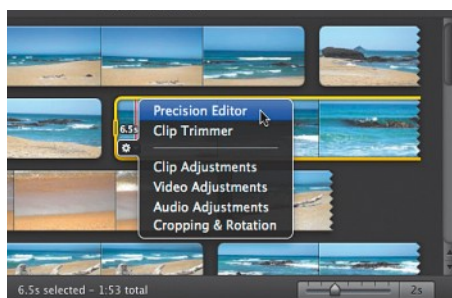
Editing dots

These dots show you where other edit points are located in a project.

The Zoom slider

The **Precision Editor** lets you zoom in and out of your edit here.

» HOW TO / Make use of the Precision Editor



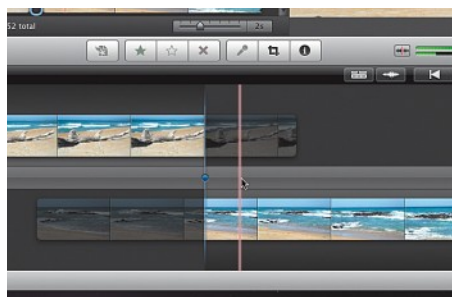
01 Turn on Precision Editor

Choose one of your projects and move your cursor over a clip to reveal various buttons. If you've got advanced tools switched on, ignore the other two options – we're not exploring them today. Click the cog wheel button to the clip's lower left and select **Precision Editor**.



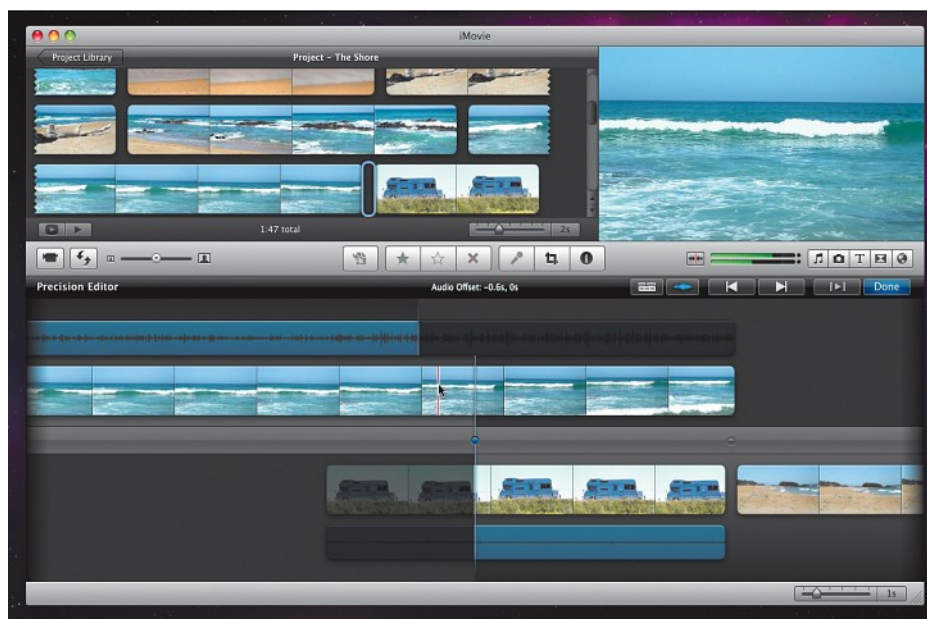
02 Your edit - in detail

The entire bottom section of the interface is replaced with the **Precision Editor**. The clip before the one you clicked on in the **Project** is shown at the top (along with any other clips before it) and the one you selected is at the bottom (followed by others after it).



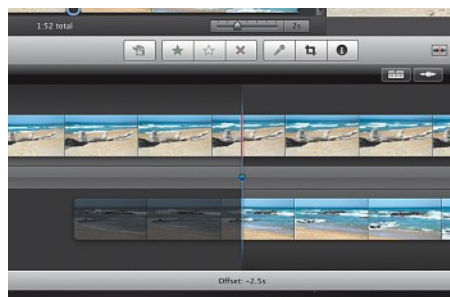
03 The unwanted parts

The thin blue line denotes the edit point between both clips. Mostly, you won't choose a full clip but only part of it for a project. In the **Precision Editor**, any darkened thumbnails after a clip (above) or before it (below) show available footage that you've chosen not to use.



» QUICK TIP

When cutting the audio and video separately, you may wish to trim the other clip's audio so that both tracks don't overlap. The **Precision Editor** tells you how many seconds both audio tracks are offset by – the value at the top changes in real time.



04 Change the edit

To fine-tune your edit, start by dragging the top clip to the right. You are shortening that clip, making the edit happen sooner and moving more of the footage into the darkened area. Do the reverse to lengthen the clip instead. You can do the same for the clip at the bottom.

06 Perform a split edit

If you drag the thin blue line while your cursor is over the video thumbnail, the effect will be indistinguishable from what you did in the rest of this tutorial. But drag the blue line with the cursor over the audio waveform and you'll alter the audio's edit independently from the video. This is known as a 'split edit', where the audio and video is cut at different times. It's often used in professional edits when you may wish to keep the audio track from one clip going while cutting to another video clip. *iMovie* makes this incredibly easy to do. Once the offset is made, altering the edit while the cursor's over the video thumbnail will preserve the distance between it and its audio track. ●

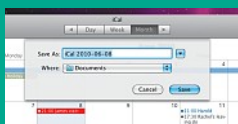


05 Reveal the audio track

The above action affects both the clip's audio and video. To reveal the clip's audio track, go to the right side of the **Precision Editor** section and click the second button (it looks like an audio waveform). The audio will appear as a blue banner above or below video thumbnails.

Keep your life in sync

Life can be chaotic, but there is an easy way to live in synchrony



>>QUICK TIP

It's important to back up your iCal information before you start using any of the synchronisation options available to you. Click on the **File** menu, and then on **Export...** then select **iCal Archive** and make sure the file is saved somewhere safe on your hard drive or an external volume.

Oftentimes you'll find your work spread across multiple locations, commonly on more than one computer, even split between two or three different operating systems. Perhaps you have a MacBook Pro at work and a Mac mini, or even a Windows or Linux computer at home. Add to that an iPhone and/or an iPad, and you might realise that you're routinely using four, five, or six different devices in the average day.

It's challenging to keep things running smoothly when you're having to work like this. Aside from the difficulties of remembering the peculiarities of certain computers and the differences between various operating systems, there's the constant puzzle of getting the information you need wherever you are right now. Perhaps you find

yourself at work needing to call the parent of one of your daughter's friends, only to discover that you don't have the number you need on the computer you're working on. And then there's the challenge of keeping home and work calendars properly updated without overlapping events.

Of course, the great promise of 'cloud computing' is that one day we will be able to access all our documents and information from anywhere. It's already quite easy to set things up so that you can share important data between machines,

"The great promise of 'cloud computing' is that one day we will be able to access our data from anywhere"

and get hold of just about anything from one device on another. We'll walk you through some options available to you, suggesting services that work particularly well, and offering a few hints and tips to help you get things running smoothly and seamlessly.

Email: Start Here

If you're checking your email from multiple locations, you're likely to run into issues of email being downloaded on one device, and so unavailable on another. Maybe you're at work and want to check for an important email about a lunchtime meeting, but what you've not realised is that your spouse has *Mail* open on the home computer, and that's downloading your messages and removing them from the server. It would be easy for you to miss that email until you got home and saw it in your inbox.

This is only an issue if you're using the POP mail protocol, and not the newer IMAP protocol, so you really ought to look into switching to IMAP if at all possible. The difference between these two ways of dealing with your email is basically that POP treats the device you're accessing your mail from as the central store for your messages, so it downloads them and deletes them from the cloud. IMAP, by contrast, treats the server-side, cloud store as the definitive version, and when you log in from any machine, the messages stay in that store. You can choose to download a copy to the computer you're using, or simply access it without actually downloading. Be clear, though, that any messages you delete on one device will be deleted from the central store – and so from any other computer that accesses it.

Many providers do now offer IMAP email, though some of the most popular services don't, including Yahoo! Mail and Hotmail. Gmail does offer a form of IMAP – even though it's a little non-standard, it'll do the job of keeping things in sync far better than POP mail. You need to turn IMAP support on in your



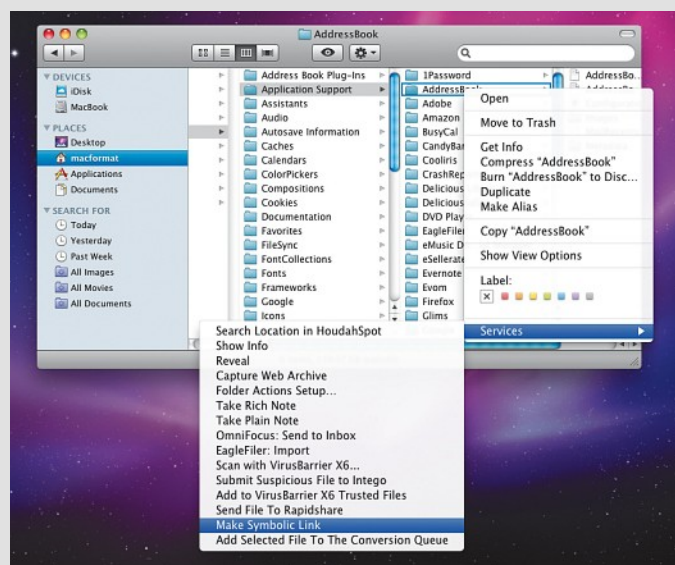
It's difficult to keep everything synced up smoothly, but don't worry, we have some top tips for you.

>> HOW TO / Go about lynkin' and syncin'

To include items in your Dropbox without moving them into the Dropbox folder, you need to create what's known as a Symbolic Link. This is a kind of file that contains a reference to another file or folder in a format that points directly to the original. It's a type of alias for the referenced file or folder – double-click on a Symbolic Link in one location on your computer, and you'll open the original file or folder, wherever it's stored. It's fairly simple to make Symbolic Links to anywhere on your Mac using the *Terminal* (a quick Google search turns up instructions), but if you're unfamiliar with this way of doing things, then you're better off using *SymbolicLinker* (<http://bit.ly/agv9n9>). This is a

tiny plug-in that works with the **Services** menu (or contextual menu if you're on a version of OS X prior to Snow Leopard), making it really easy to create the kind of links you need.

Once you've downloaded and installed *SymbolicLinker*, simply right-click on the file or folder you want to add to your Dropbox, then click **Services** at the bottom of the menu, and select **Make Symbolic Link**. You'll see a new file appear with the same title as the original, plus the added word 'symlink'. Move this file into your Dropbox folder, and the content the Symbolic Link points to is synced, removing any need to change its real location. Once you've moved the Symbolic Link, you can rename it by removing the 'symlink'.



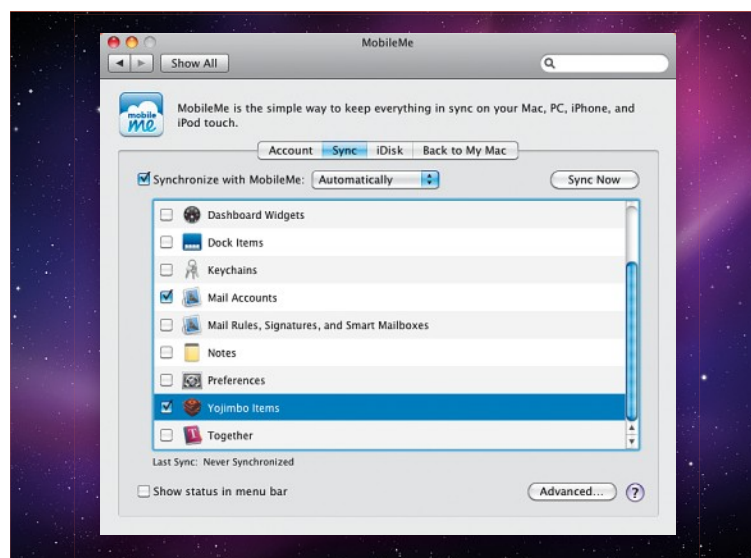
A Make Symbolic Link option in Services makes linking to your Dropbox easy.

Gmail account settings. All of the other providers we've mentioned seem to be aiming users towards choosing their web interfaces over an old-fashioned email application. And making that choice is one way of dealing with the issue of being split across various venues and computers. Along with its webmail features, MobileMe – Apple's own email and synchronisation service – offers IMAP access that's really easy to set up and runs straightforwardly.

Your Easiest Option: MobileMe

In fact, because MobileMe is made by Apple, and aimed predominantly at use on Apple hardware, it is your easiest option for keeping everything in sync. It's built right into OS X, so once you've signed up for an account, it's just a matter of clicking a few checkboxes to get things running.

Many software developers have taken the step of adding MobileMe synchronisation to their applications. Take, for instance, the popular information organiser *Yojimbo* (<http://bit.ly/gZs7>): it shows up in the list of available items in the MobileMe *System Preferences* pane – tick the box, and all your information will be transparently synced between all the computers signed in on your MobileMe account.



Setting up MobileMe syncing is as easy as ticking boxes, and then it (mostly) just works.

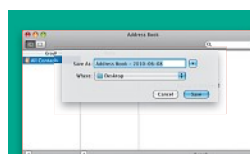
MobileMe also provides beautiful web applications that mean you can access your information – *Address Book*, *iCal*, MobileMe email – from any machine with a modern web browser. Admittedly, the MobileMe web interface can be a bit slow at times,

“MobileMe provides beautiful web apps that mean you can access your data from any machine”

but it's certainly well done, and technically quite ambitious.

Google Calendar and Contacts

While there's great appeal in the simplicity and all-in-one-ness of MobileMe, it does have its problems: email can be temperamental, it's relatively expensive, and the slowness of the web interface might start to wear on you after a while. Happily, there are alternatives available, most of which are free. We're going to focus on the

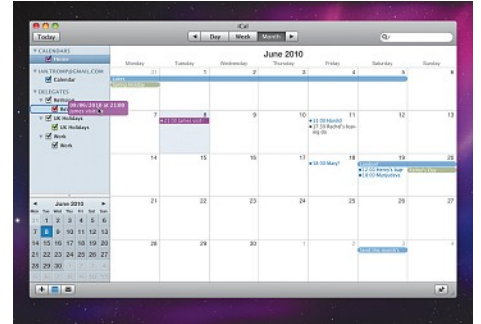
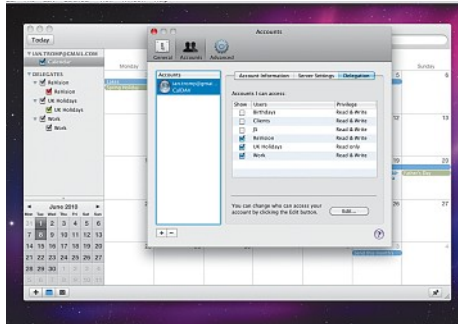


>> QUICK TIP

As with your calendar, you need to create a backup of your *Address Book* before you start, just in case anything was to go wrong in syncing. Click on **File** and then **Export...** then select **Address Book Archive**. Select where you want the archive saved, and then click on **Save**.



>> HOW TO / Set up Google Calendar and iCal syncing

**01 Add an account**

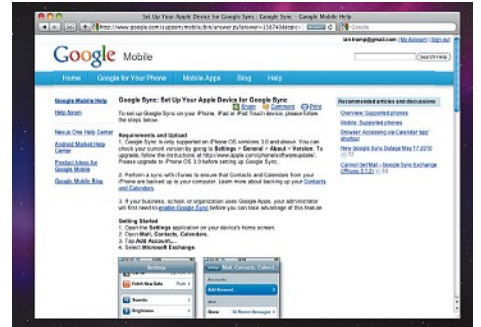
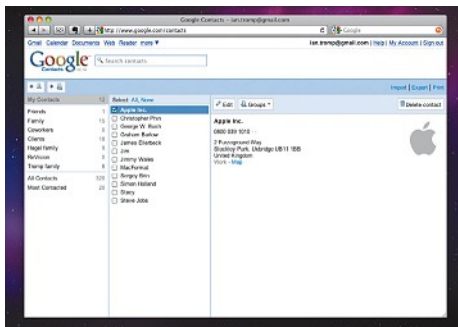
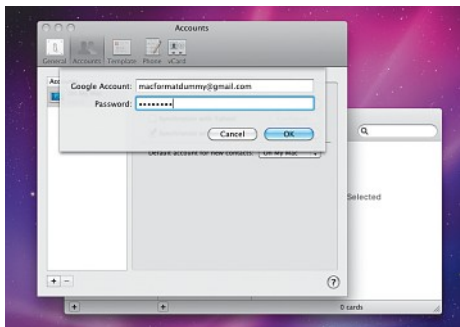
To set up Google Calendar and iCal syncing, select iCal > Preferences... (or hit $\mathcal{C} + \mathcal{P}$), click on the + at the bottom-left, select Google as the account type, enter the email address and password associated with your Google Calendar account, and click Create.

02 Input settings

Next you should see three tabs on the right: Account Information, Server Settings and Delegation. Curiously, it's the last of these you need to use to add any sub-calendars you're using in Google Calendar: click on the checkboxes of those you want to show.

03 Drag across events

It can take some time for all your Google Calendar events to show up in iCal. Once everything's downloaded, drag any events from local iCal calendars into Your Google Calendar - drop them on the calendar title, they'll be moved across, and will now be available from anywhere.

**04 Set up Address Book**

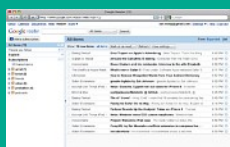
Open Address Book, go to Preferences (exactly as in iCal), switch to the Accounts tab and click the checkbox for Synchronize with Google. Back up your Address Book as recommended, then click Agree. Enter your email address and password, and you're set.

05 View your contacts

Now you can view your Address Book using the Google Contacts interface (www.google.com/contacts), which is nicely designed and significantly faster to use than MobileMe's equivalent service. If you're using Gmail, then they will also be available to you there.

06 Sync to your iDevice

Setting up over-the-air syncing on your iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad involves a few more steps (see the video at <http://bit.ly/googleasync>). Once you're set up, synchronisation of your Google Calendar, Contacts, and Gmail happens automatically whenever you're online. ●



>> QUICK TIP

If you use RSS feeds, Google Reader (<http://reader.google.com>) is an excellent option: compatible apps are available for your Mac, iPhone, or iPad.

offerings available from Google, but there are several other options out there if you're prepared to spend the time hunting for them and get things running to your satisfaction. In our experience, though, Google's services work particularly well.

We'll start with Google Calendar (calendar.google.com). As with Gmail, there is an argument for relying on the web interface, and simply accessing that wherever you happen to be. But it's now easy to set up two-way synchronisation between your iCal and Google Calendar. With Snow Leopard, it's super-simple to use. For an even better experience, try

BusyCal (www.busycal.com, covered in MacFormat 216), which makes it even easier to do, as well as adding various features to your calendar.

Similarly, your Mac now has built-in Address Book synchronisation with Google Contacts, so you can have easy web access to your Address Book anywhere. Once you've set it up

"Although it wasn't specifically made for online backup, Dropbox really works well for this purpose"

on one machine, you simply repeat the process on your other Macs, and your contacts will all be synced between your computers. And they're available from the Google Contacts web app: just go to www.google.com/contacts in any browser.

Keeping files in sync

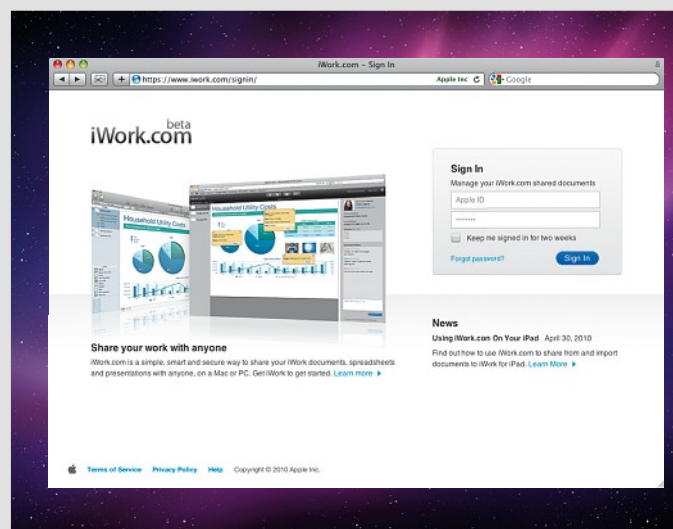
Dropbox (www.dropbox.com) very quickly became a favourite with Mac geeks (in fact, with geeks on all systems!). It's so easy to set up and use that it requires very little thought at all. Once it's installed and running on your various devices (it has native Windows, Mac, and Linux clients, as

» HOW TO / Work with text, numbers and spreadsheets

Some people opt to take their documents entirely online, rather than storing them on their computers. Google Documents (<http://docs.google.com>) is one of a few services that enable you to do this. There are applications available that help to automate the process of uploading documents from your computer to Google Documents. Once they're there, you can access and edit them from anywhere using Google's increasingly powerful text and spreadsheet editing capabilities.

Apple's iWork.com shows promise as a way of sharing documents created in the iWork '09 suite of applications. It's been in beta since it was announced over a year ago, and

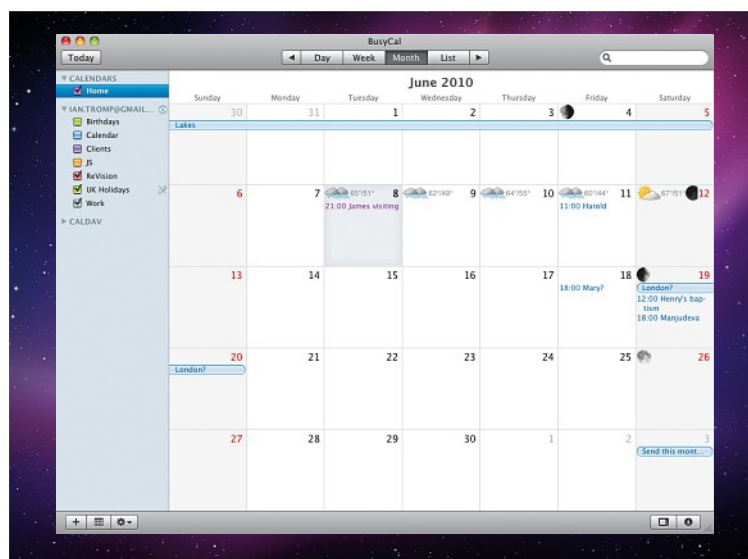
hasn't actually advanced much since then. The biggest limitation at the moment is the fact that you can't edit your documents online – and this means it's not very useful for those who want to keep their data and their documents entirely in the cloud. All the iWork '09 apps have a button on their toolbars that lets you upload to iWork.com, so you can quickly upload and then notify whoever you want to share or collaborate with. They can annotate and comment on your document, download it to their computers, edit it, and re-share back to you. There's much to like about this service, but it doesn't take you much closer to sync-heaven. Here's hoping for more to come from Apple.



The online iWork.com service has a lot of potential that Apple has yet to tap.

well as mobile apps for iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, and Android phones), you can instantly access your files from anywhere. Dropbox is a paid service, but it has a generous 2GB free version. That's sufficient for many users to have ubiquitous access to their main working data, and to know that their most important data (OS X keychains, for instance, or *Yojimbo* libraries or *TextExpander* snippets) is safely backed up online. Although it wasn't designed specifically for online backup, Dropbox works really well for this purpose, especially since it instantly updates your files to the cloud as they're changed on your drive.

Getting going with Dropbox is straightforward – download the correct version of the client software for the machine you're currently working on, install it, signing up for an account in the process (or signing in if you already have an account), and you're good to go. You will notice a new 'Dropbox' folder in your home directory – any files placed in here will be synced to the online interface and to any other computers logged into your Dropbox account. Some people don't like that you have to use this folder as the main store for files you want synchronised by Dropbox – it seems at first that you would have to move your files into this folder to get them synced. Don't worry, though, because there's a simple way to leave your files where they are and have



BusyCal is an even easier way to keep you calendar in sync on all your systems.

them included anyway – see the 'linkin' and syncin" box on page 53.

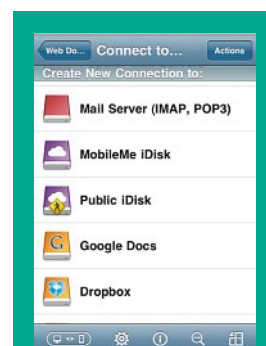
In closing

Modern working life requires us to be online, connected, and up to date wherever we are. Thank goodness that Apple and others are doing such a great job of building the apps and

"Dropbox very quickly became a favourite with Mac geeks. It's easy to set up and requires little thought"

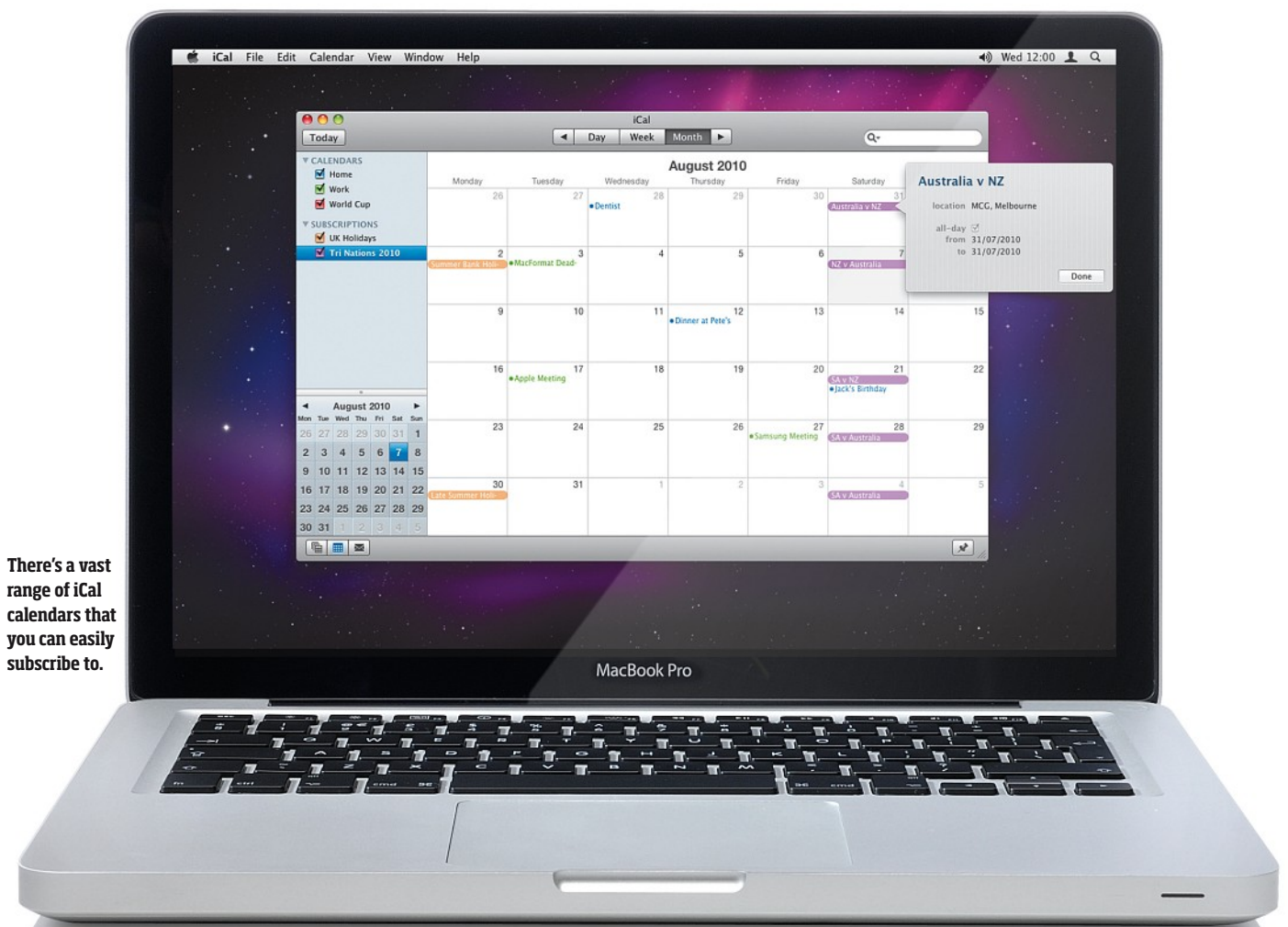
the hardware that we need to do this with as little stress as possible. Before too long, all our data and our documents might live entirely online, and we'll be accessing them from workstations and portable devices, much as we do now with IMAP email.

We've only had enough space here to cover a few areas and services – there are other offerings out there, some of which work just as well as Google's webapps, MobileMe, and Dropbox. But these are the services that we use – they've helped us keep things together while being stretched over locations and systems. Hopefully, they'll prove useful for you too. ●



» QUICK TIP

GoodReader is an app that allows you to read various kinds of documents on your iPhone or iPad. Where it really shines is its ability to access files stored on various sources – from websites, your MobileMe iDisk, Google Documents, Dropbox or any WebDAV server. So you can easily read your docs on the go.



There's a vast range of iCal calendars that you can easily subscribe to.

Subscribe to calendars in iCal

There's a world of information available through iCal's subscription feature

>>> KEY INFO



DIFFICULTY:
Beginner



TIME NEEDED:
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

A Mac with iCal, OS X 10.2,
internet connection

Apple's *iCal* looks very simple – after all, it just displays a calendar marked with various dates and events that you need to remember. Yet underneath that unassuming exterior it's actually quite a sophisticated piece of software. As well as storing a list of dates, it enables you to create to-do lists to keep yourself organised, set alarms so that you don't miss important meetings, and even send emails to friends and colleagues to set up a meeting for you.

However, *iCal* can go even further by enabling you to 'subscribe' to calendar information created by other people. All you need to do is to enter the web address (URL) where the calendar is stored and *iCal* will

automatically import the information stored in that calendar so that you can view it on your own Mac.

On a simple level this can be used for something like adding the dates of bank holidays to your calendar, or importing a list of football fixture dates. However, there are a lot of calendars that are freely available on the internet that provide different types of information. We've seen calendars of astronomical and

"iCal can go even further by enabling you to subscribe to calendar information created by others"

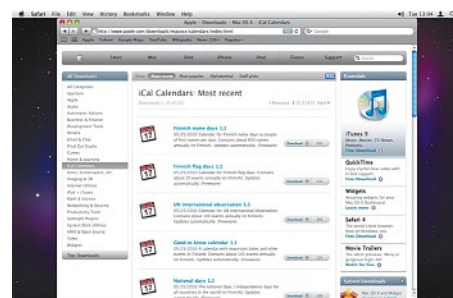
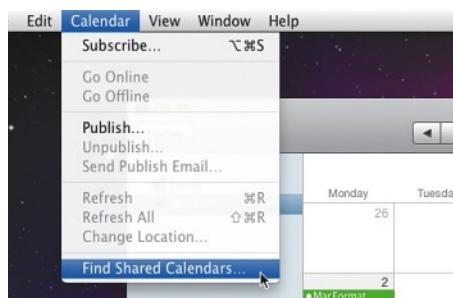
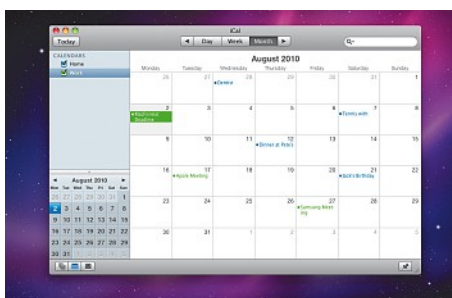
astrophysical events, rock band tour dates, religious festivals and even a calendar for oceanic studies.

You can even use this ability to organise projects with your friends. You could plan a holiday trip by creating a calendar containing dates and other information that your friends can subscribe to. Subscribing to a calendar also enables you to update the calendar regularly to check for updates and alterations, as well as import to-do lists and reminders for things like visa applications or travel insurance.

It only takes a few seconds to subscribe to a new calendar, so take a look and see how you can exploit one of *iCal*'s most powerful features.

Cliff Joseph

» HOW TO / Subscribe to selected calendars



01 Multiple calendars

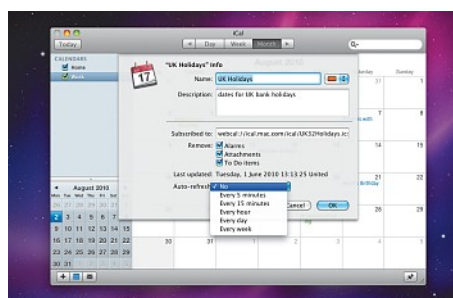
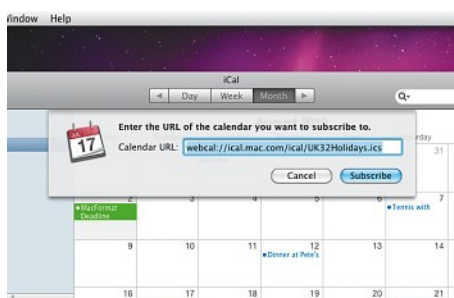
One of the handy things about *iCal* is that it enables you to create multiple calendars – one for work events and another for your personal schedule, say. Apart from storing your own calendar details, you can also use *iCal* to subscribe to calendars created by other people.

02 Fair shares

To help you get started, *iCal* includes an option for subscribing to a number of calendars that are stored on Apple's website. Look in the **Calendar** menu then click the **Find Shared Calendars** command. This launches *Safari* and takes you to the *iCal* page on Apple's website.

03 In public

Some of these calendars are provided by Apple, while others have been designed by fellow *iCal* users. Many focus on dates of bank holidays in various countries, but there are many other types on offer, such as sporting event calendars or moon phase calendars.



04 Web address

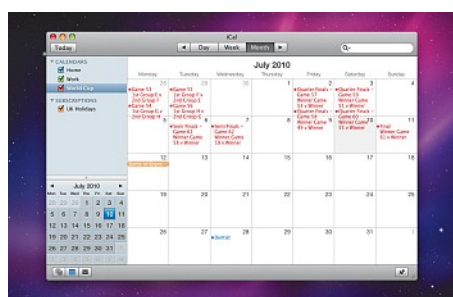
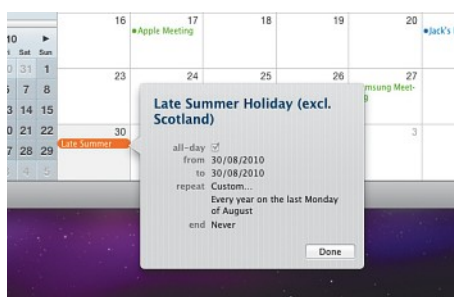
We'll start with something simple but useful – the dates for UK bank holidays. When you click the download link for a calendar you automatically switch back to *iCal*. We'll click **Subscribe** to accept this calendar, but you could also enter the address for any others you know.

05 Descriptive dates

You can now enter additional information about the calendar, including a description or a colour code for highlighting calendar entries. You can also subscribe to additional details, such as alarms and to-do lists, as well as tell *iCal* to refresh calendars regularly.

» QUICK TIP

As well as subscribing to other people's calendars, you can publish your own calendars online so that others can subscribe to them. The easiest option is Apple's MobileMe service, which costs £59 per year and enables you to control who sees your calendar details.



06 Summer holiday

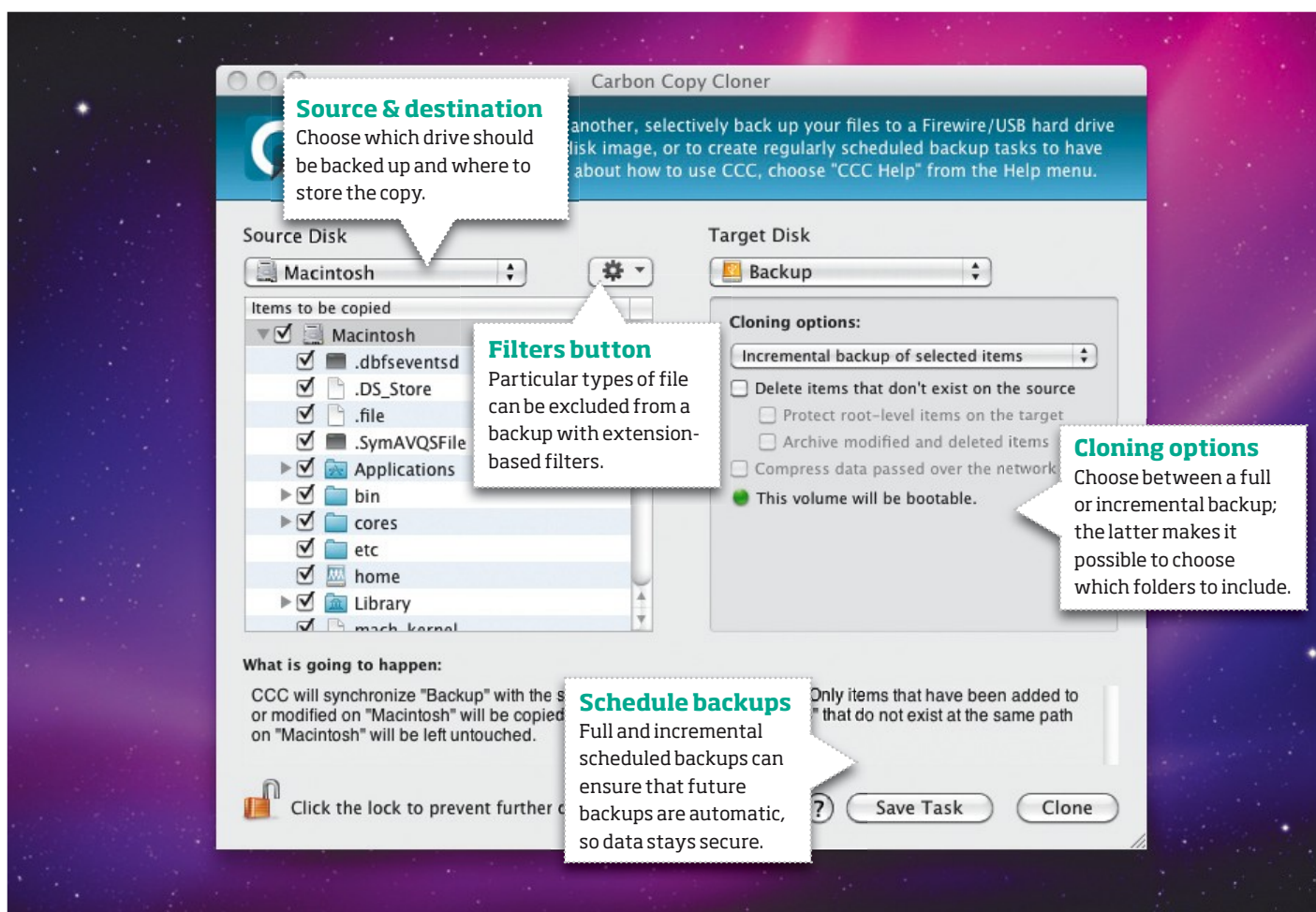
The calendar list now includes a new **Subscriptions** entry that contains the UK holidays calendar. Events such as the August bank holiday also appear on the main calendar window; we've coloured them orange to tell them apart from our **Home** and **Work** calendars.

07 Fixed dates

Sometimes when you add a calendar – such as this list of football fixtures – it may be listed as an ordinary calendar rather than a subscription. This means the calendar includes just a fixed set of dates and events, with no option to subscribe to or update the calendar.

08 Sharing sites

The **Find Shared Calendars** command always takes you to the Apple website, but there are a number of other good sites where you can find useful public calendars. The best one is probably *iCalShare* at www.icalshare.com, which boasts hundreds. ●



Make a full backup of your Mac

Use Carbon Copy Cloner to create an exact copy of your Mac's hard drive

»» KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED:
One hour

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
OS X 10.4+, Carbon Copy Cloner

»» ON THE DISC

Find *Carbon Copy Cloner* on the disc.

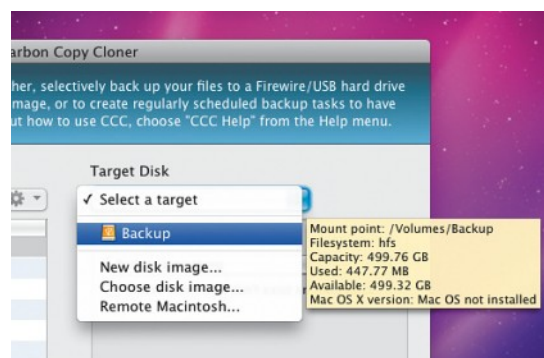
Whatever you use your Mac for, it's likely that your hard drive is filled with files that you simply could not bear, or afford, to lose.

Whether you have a collection of personal photos and files, or documents relating to work, an effective backup procedure is needed to safeguard your data against loss.

While there are various backup solutions available for OS X, including *Time Machine*, few offer the thorough yet simple means of backing up found in *Carbon Copy Cloner*. As the name suggests, the program makes it possible to create a complete backup of your hard drive. Complete backups in themselves aren't particularly new, but *Carbon Copy Cloner* can create the backup on a bootable external volume, so in the event of disk failure a quick disk swap is all that is needed to get things up and running again.

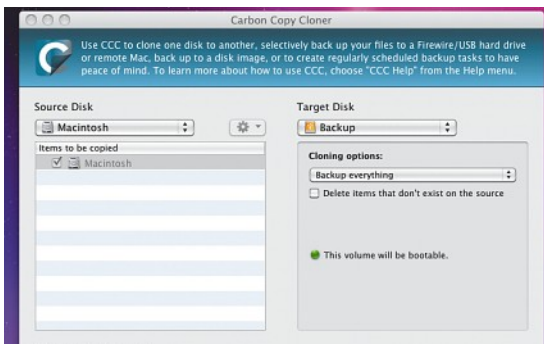
After your initial backup has been created, subsequent backups are much faster thanks to the use of incremental backups that only make copies of files that have changed. Backups can then be run on a schedule so there's no need to remember to manually perform this task.

Mark Wilson



01 Initial backup

Install *Carbon Copy Cloner* and launch the program from the **Applications** folder. Click the button to agree to the licence and click **No Thanks** to skip the Quick Start Guide. Click the **Source Disk** drop-down menu to the right and from the list that's displayed, select the drive to back up. From the **Target Disk** drop-down menu to the right, select the drive to be used to house the backup.



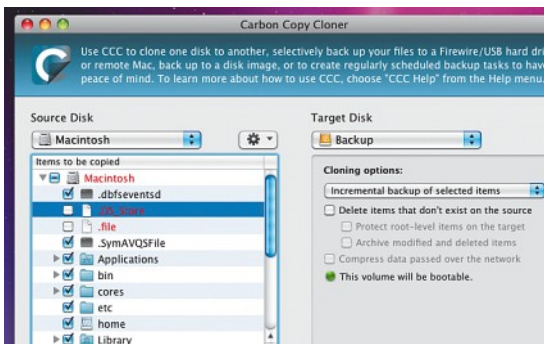
02 Backup options

Beneath the Cloning options label, select the **Backup everything** option from the drop-down menu. If you would like to wipe the destination drive, tick the option labelled **Delete items that don't exist on the source** - if the drive contains files you want retained, ensure that this box is not ticked. Click the **Clone** button.



03 Running backup

Enter your account password and press **⏏**. Data will now be copied from the source to the destination drive, and the progress bar that is displayed gives an idea of how long the process will take. When the backup process is complete, click **OK** to continue. Move to Step 7 for details of how to schedule future backups.



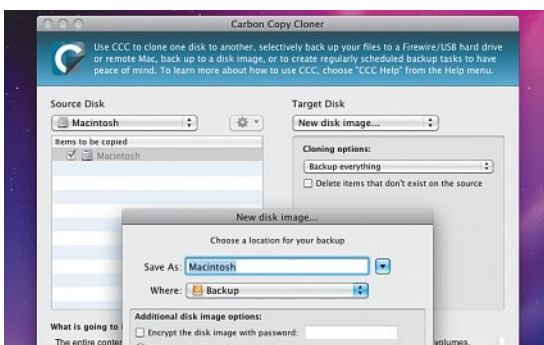
04 Incremental backups

Rather than backing up your entire hard drive, an incremental backup will only back up files that have been changed or created since the last backup. Select **Incremental backup of selected items** from the Cloning options drop-down menu and then use the tick boxes to the left to indicate which folders should be included.



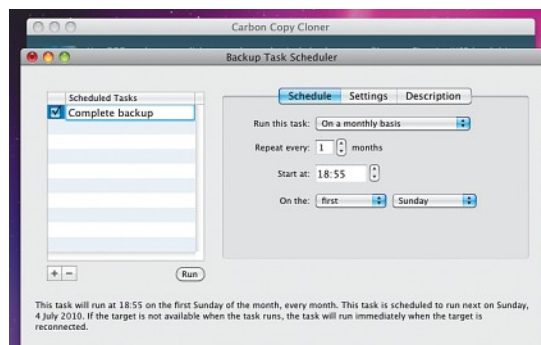
05 Network backups

You can back up files to another Mac on the same network. Select **Remote Macintosh** from the Target Disk menu and click the **Create Authentication Credentials package** button. Run the installer on the Mac to back up, then on the one to be used as backup destination. You can use the remote Mac's IP address to establish a connection.



06 Disk images

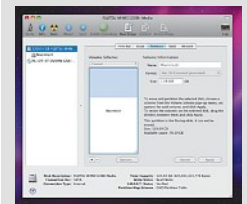
Backups can also be saved as disk images - handy for storing several different backups on the same drive. Select **New disk image** as the target disk, and choose a name and location for it. An existing disk image can be used by selecting **Choose disk image**, and there's no limit on the number of images that can be created.



07 Scheduling backups

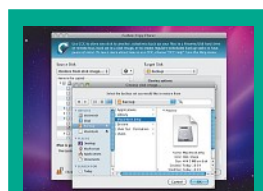
Whether you have opted for a full or incremental backup, you can run the backup on a schedule so it's always up to date. Click the **Save task** button at the bottom of the window and enter a suitable name. On the **Schedule** tab, choose the frequency at which the backup should be run, then click **Save**.

EXPERT TIP



Formatting a backup drive

It's a good idea to use a dedicated drive to store backups rather than using one that's used to store files. Whether you're using an internal or external drive, OS X's **Disk Utility** can be used to prepare the backup media. Launch **Disk Utility** from the **Applications** folder and select the drive from the list to the left. Move the **Partition** tab to the right and select **1 Partition** from the **Volume Scheme** drop-down menu. Select the **GUID Partition Table** option and click **OK**; enter a suitable label for the partition in the **Name** field. From the **Format** drop-down menu, select **Mac OS Extended (Journaled)** then click the **Apply** button. Click **Partition** to confirm formatting.



>> QUICK TIP

When using a disk image as the target disk, data can be recovered by mounting the image and copying files, or selecting **Restore from disk image** when choosing the source.

Gain a bit of context for your calculations with Souler.



Perform calculations faster

Use calculator/spreadsheet/notebook hybrid Souler to speed up your sums

»» KEY INFO



DIFFICULTY:
Intermediate



TIME NEEDED:
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Souler 2.0.1, Mac OS X 10.5.8+

»» ON THE DISC



Find a Souler 10-day trial on the disc.

One of Apple's most successful advertising campaigns was 'think different'; it advocated people who thought outside the box, aiming to make parallels with Apple's creative leanings.

However, despite the innovation Apple brings to the table, the fact remains that most Mac applications you use on a daily basis stick to well-known conventions, often based on real-world items, despite a modern computer offering so much more power. However, *Souler* truly thinks different, providing you with a faster way to solve calculations.

Even the latest version of *Calculator* in OS X is modelled on a desktop equivalent, with push-buttons and a digital 'paper tape' for

recording a calculation path. This isn't always an efficient way to deal with numerical data, nor does it provide context for calculations. And should you want to take the next step, you suddenly find yourself immersed in the world of bafflingly complex spreadsheets, often requiring you to be a formula-and-function ninja to work them.

Souler sits between these extremes, offering an intelligent,

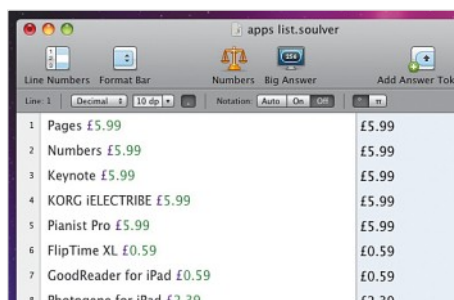
"Souler offers an interface that's closer to the back of an envelope than a calculation app"

intuitive interface that's closer to the back of an envelope than a traditional calculation application. You can add notes and figures, and use basic English phrases; in most cases, *Souler* will provide you with the answers you want. For example, paste a list of item/value pairs from an email or text file, and *Souler* will immediately give you a total. Once you get a little more confident with the app, it provides extra depth, enabling you to define variables (which can be stored for later use) and use tokens, for basic dynamic spreadsheet-style capabilities.

A *Souler* 10-day trial is on your disc. To register the application, visit <http://acqualia.com/souler>.

Craig Grannell

» HOW TO / Use Soulver for contextual calculations



Line	Item	Price
1	Pages £5.99	£5.99
2	Numbers £5.99	£5.99
3	Keynote £5.99	£5.99
4	KORG IELECTRIBE £5.99	£5.99
5	Pianist Pro £5.99	£5.99
6	FlipTime XL £0.59	£0.59
7	GoodReader for iPad £0.59	£0.59
8	Photogene for iPad £2.39	£2.39



Item	Price
ene for iPad	£2.39
per Pro	£2.99
ator for iPad	£2.99

Total:	£39.50
Average:	£3.95
Variance:	£4.77
Standard Deviation:	£2.18

Copy Selected Statistic

Total: £39.50



Line	Item	Price
9	Pianist Pro £5.99	£5.99
10	FlipTime XL £0.59	£0.59
11	GoodReader for iPad £0.59	£0.59
12	Photogene for iPad £2.39	£2.39
13	Instapaper Pro £2.99	£2.99
14	Twittelator for iPad £2.99	£2.99
15		
16	Magazines:	
17	MacFormat 'issue 224' £5.99	£5.99
18	Wired £3.99	£3.99
	Total:	£49.48

01 Create a list

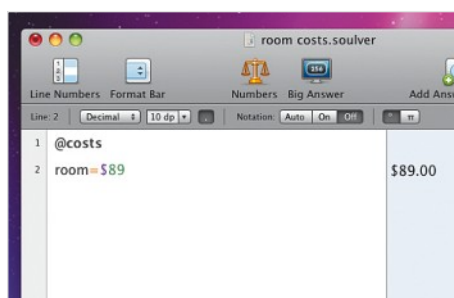
If you want to tot up recent purchases, copy across items and prices from emails or elsewhere. We've pasted chunks of *iTunes* receipts, and deleted everything apart from app names and prices. *Soulver* finds the numbers and places them in the answer column.

02 Get a total

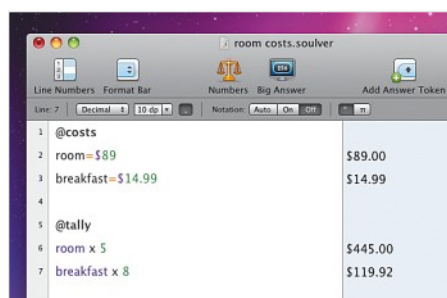
If you add a list of this kind, you can use the total provided at the foot of the window. If you're working in a particular currency, the relevant symbol is added automatically. Click the total to see statistics – you can switch *Soulver* to show an average of your figures.

03 Use formatting

You can omit numbers from calculations. Anything within double-quotes isn't calculated: so 'MacFormat issue 224' includes a number to add, but 'MacFormat "issue 224"' has an 'inline note'. Use colons as labels (nothing left evaluates) and @ for headings (nothing right evaluates).



Line	Item	Price
1	@costs	
2	room=\$89	\$89.00



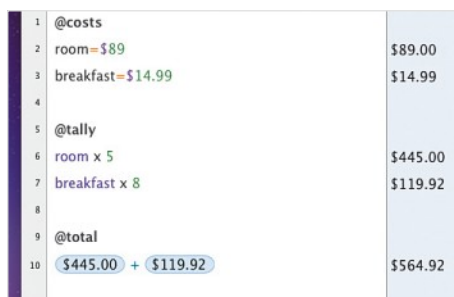
Line	Item	Price
1	@costs	
2	room=\$89	\$89.00
3	breakfast=\$14.99	\$14.99
4		
5	@tally	
6	room x 5	\$445.00
7	breakfast x 8	\$119.92

04 Create a variable

You'll now find out how *Soulver*'s more advanced features can help you keep track of figures – in this case a trip where costs need calculating. In a new document, add the heading @costs. Below, create a variable 'room' by typing room= and give it a value, \$89.

05 Tally variables

Create a second variable for 'breakfast' (with the value \$14.99). Next, define a total for each variable by using the string variable x n, where 'variable' is one of the variables from Step 4 and 'n' is a number. We've created calculations for five rooms and eight breakfasts.



Line	Item	Price
1	@costs	
2	room=\$89	\$89.00
3	breakfast=\$14.99	\$14.99
4		
5	@tally	
6	room x 5	\$445.00
7	breakfast x 8	\$119.92
8		
9	@total	
10	\$445.00 + \$119.92	\$564.92



Line	Item	Price
8		
9	@total	
10	\$445.00 + \$119.92	
11		
12	@sterling	
13	\$564.92 in GBP	

06 Create totals

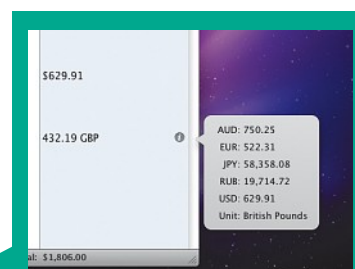
Add another heading, @total. Drag the result of the room calculation underneath it. It will become a token that can be dynamically updated. Drag the breakfast result next to it. *Soulver* places a + symbol between the tokens; the grand total is shown in the results column.

07 Convert currencies

Soulver offers support for conversions between major currencies; rates are updated regularly. Create a new heading, @sterling. Drag the result from the previous step to a new line and type in GBP after it. The results column will show the grand total in sterling.

08 Update figures

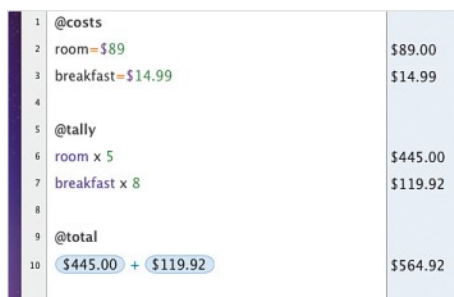
Oops – turns out our figures were wrong. The room was \$99 and we had nine breakfasts! Not a problem – variables are dynamic. Change the figures and everything updates accordingly. For more on operators and units, go to Help > Quick Reference. ●



\$629.91
432.19 GBP
AUD: 750.25
EUR: 522.31
JPY: 58,358.08
RUB: 19,714.72
USD: 629.91
Unit: British Pounds

» QUICK TIP

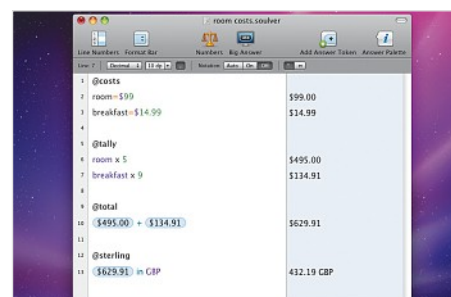
For a quick-fire currency conversion of a financial calculation, select a figure from the answer column and click the info button. Currencies shown are defined in the **Currencies** section of the **Numbers** window (Window > Numbers).



Line	Item	Price
1	@costs	
2	room=\$89	\$89.00
3	breakfast=\$14.99	\$14.99
4		
5	@tally	
6	room x 5	\$445.00
7	breakfast x 8	\$119.92
8		
9	@total	
10	\$445.00 + \$119.92	\$564.92



Line	Item	Price
8		
9	@total	
10	\$445.00 + \$119.92	
11		
12	@sterling	
13	\$564.92 in GBP	



Line	Item	Price
1	@costs	
2	room=\$99	\$99.00
3	breakfast=\$14.99	\$14.99
4		
5	@tally	
6	room x 5	\$495.00
7	breakfast x 9	\$134.91
8		
9	@total	
10	\$495.00 + \$134.91	\$629.91
11	@sterling	
12	\$629.91 in GBP	432.19 GBP

Know your way around Outline mode for optimal Pages work.



Organise Pages documents

Proper preparation using Outline mode prevents poor performance in Pages

»»KEY INFO



DIFFICULTY:
Beginner



TIME NEEDED:
20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
OS X 10.4 or later, iWork '09

When it comes to starting a document or a full-blown project in *Pages*, the blank canvas you are presented with can be quite a daunting prospect. Where do you start? Should you just begin typing away and see what happens? Everybody works in different ways, but a proven technique to aid your progress is to plan out a document first so you have a clear idea of the way it is structured before you get down to the business of typing.

Start by listing the most important parts of your project, such as your theme, your objectives and the final outcome, and then come up with subheadings for each of these to give yourself a clear picture of the way your final document will look.

Then, using *Pages*' **Outline** mode, you can add titles to the main sections of your document to create a structure before you begin writing, and even drag and drop these sections to reorganise them.

Subheadings can be added below these main headings and you can jump into your document and start writing whenever you wish. If you need to make changes, just go back into **Outline** mode and shift things

"Plan your document first so you have a clear idea of the way it's structured before you start typing"

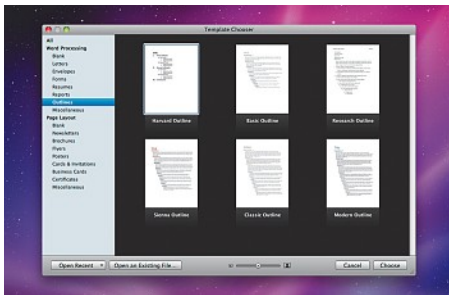
around. This helps you keep tabs on a document's layout and lets you break it down into manageable chunks. You can even add images to the **Outline** mode to provide a little inspiration as you write and use them as part of your finished project.

In this tutorial, we'll show you how to create a *Pages* outline with headings and subheadings, restructure the section layout and add images to your document. Use this technique next time you have a report to write or a newsletter to publish and you're guaranteed to work faster.

Here's how to make the most of **Outline** mode and enhance the way you work on a variety of projects.

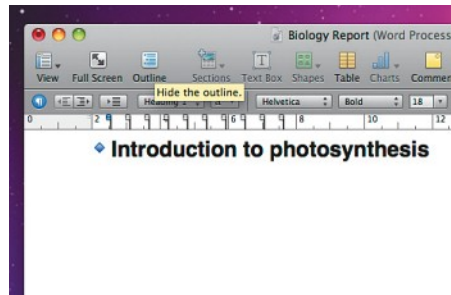
Ben Harvell

» HOW TO / Use Outline mode to plan your document



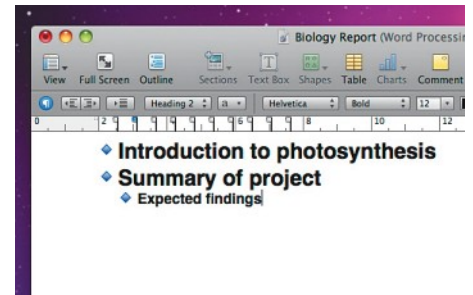
01 Template Chooser

When you launch *Pages* you will be shown the **Template Chooser** that features a number of preset outlines ready for you to use. We'll start from scratch, so select a blank **Word Processing** template then click **Choose** from the bottom-right of the **Template Chooser** window.



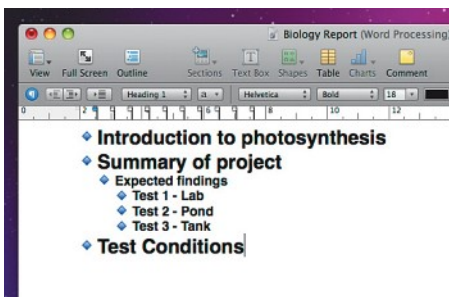
02 Enter Outline mode

With your blank page loaded, head to the toolbar and click on the **Outline** button to switch into **Outline** mode. You'll notice a small blue diamond appear on your document: this is where your first section will go. Click next to it and type the title of your first section.



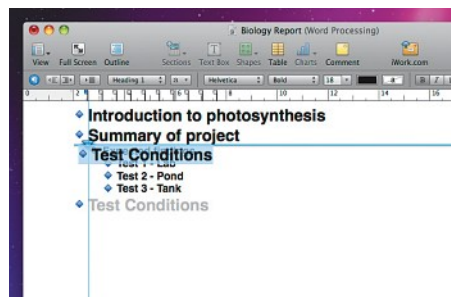
03 New section

Hit **⇧⌘** to move to your next section. Another blue diamond will appear, denoting another section has been added. Type a title then hit **⇧⌘** again, followed by the **⇧⌘** key, to add a subheading below your second heading. Hit **⇧⌘** to add another subheading at the same level.



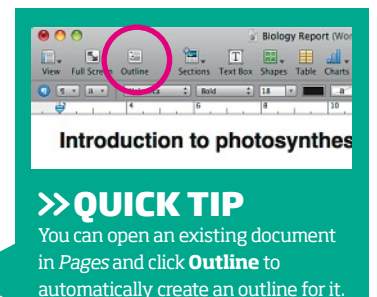
04 Another main section

If you want to increase the level of a section in order to add a new main section, use the buttons below **Full Screen** on the **Format** bar to reduce or increase the level of a section. The left button promotes the level of a heading; the right button demotes it.



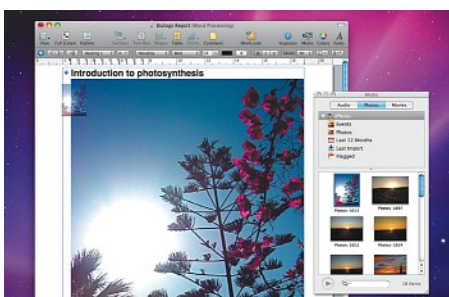
05 Moving sections

If you want to reorganise the order of your sections, select a heading and drag it up or down to the position you require. If the section has subheadings, these will move with the section and remain below it. You can also select multiple sections and move them together.



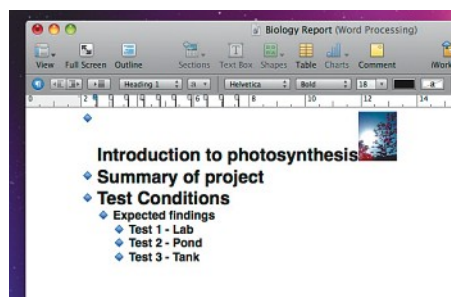
» QUICK TIP

You can open an existing document in *Pages* and click **Outline** to automatically create an outline for it. If there aren't set headings in the document you may need to add them in order to use the **Outline** mode properly. Most applications, such as *Microsoft Word*, offer heading features, so you can use **Outline** mode with a number of imported documents in *Pages*.



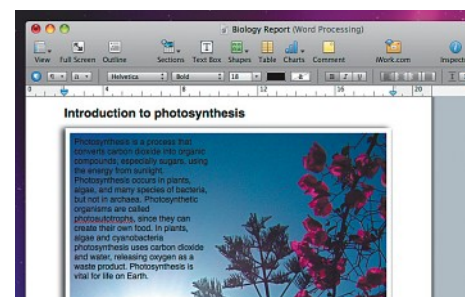
06 Add images

If you want to add images to your outline and project, you can do so by clicking on the **Media** button at the top-right of the *Pages* interface. Under the **Photos** tab, select the image you want to use and drag it onto the section of your choice.



07 Image resize

By default the image will be added at full size, which makes it difficult to view your outline properly. Click on the **Thumbnail** option from the drop-down menu on the **Format** bar to reduce the size of your image. The image will now be shown as a thumbnail on your outline.



08 Preview on the fly

You can check on how your project is looking and begin writing at any point by clicking the **Outline** button again to leave **Outline** mode; when you click it, only your headings will be shown, but any text you have added will remain in the main document. ●

FOR THE MUSICIAN IN YOU



The London Music Show is the UK's biggest and most inspirational event for anyone with a passion for making or playing music. All abilities. All genres.

Guitars | Drums | Sound technology | Music production | Unplugged |
See top live acts | Meet iconic musicians | Learn new techniques |
Buy the latest gear | Demo the coolest kit | Beginners' workshops |
Exclusive masterclasses | 100s of exhibitors | 1000s of products

EXCITING | INTERACTIVE | UNMISSABLE
www.londonmusicshow.com

Bringing music to life



**London
Music
Show** 2010
8-10 October / ExCeL London

>> OS X SURVIVAL GUIDE

Strange folders

Spotted a lost+found folder on your hard disk? Don't panic, yet



>> PROFILE

Name: Christopher Brennan

Occupation: Freelance journalist, Mac consultant and househusband

System(s): Mac Pro (2x2.8GHz), MacBook (2GHz), 20-inch iMac (2GHz), 12-inch PowerBook G4 (1GHz)

Buzzwords and phrases are part and parcel of the IT industry; they come and go at an incredible pace. Those of you who were using Macs back before OS X was released will remember, no doubt, this one: UNIX underpinnings. It's one of those phrases that, all in one, tells you something and nothing. It sounds grand and clearly it's meant to be a good thing.

Mac OS X is built on UNIX – that's really as much as any end users should ever need to know. In fact, you probably don't even need to know that. However, those underpinnings are what make the Mac OS more stable and reliable.

UNIX stirrings

Every now and again, the dark underbelly of OS X bubbles up to the surface and this happened to me just the other day. Go and check the top level of your hard disk, I'll wait here while you do. Right, now you're back, did you discover a folder there called lost+found? If there was, this is those UNIX underpinnings at work.

This is nothing to panic about; well, it might be, but don't do anything radical just yet. The lost+found folder is created for a variety of reasons, and all of them loosely connected.

Most often the lost+found folder is created after a forced shutdown or a power cut. The OS loses track of what was going on and instead of dumping any files or folders it has lost track of, it puts them in the lost+found folder. But before you

also point to a physical issue with your hard disk. To be frank, it's likely any issue with a hard disk will have manifested itself in other unusual behaviour and/or crashes long before the appearance of said folder.

Now, you still don't really need to panic because you have at least two recent backups of your data safely tucked away somewhere, don't you? You do? Good. A simple format and reinstall of OS X should solve this issue and though it's time

"If there are lots of files in the folder and they're all recent, this might indicate a problem with the file system or even your hard disk"

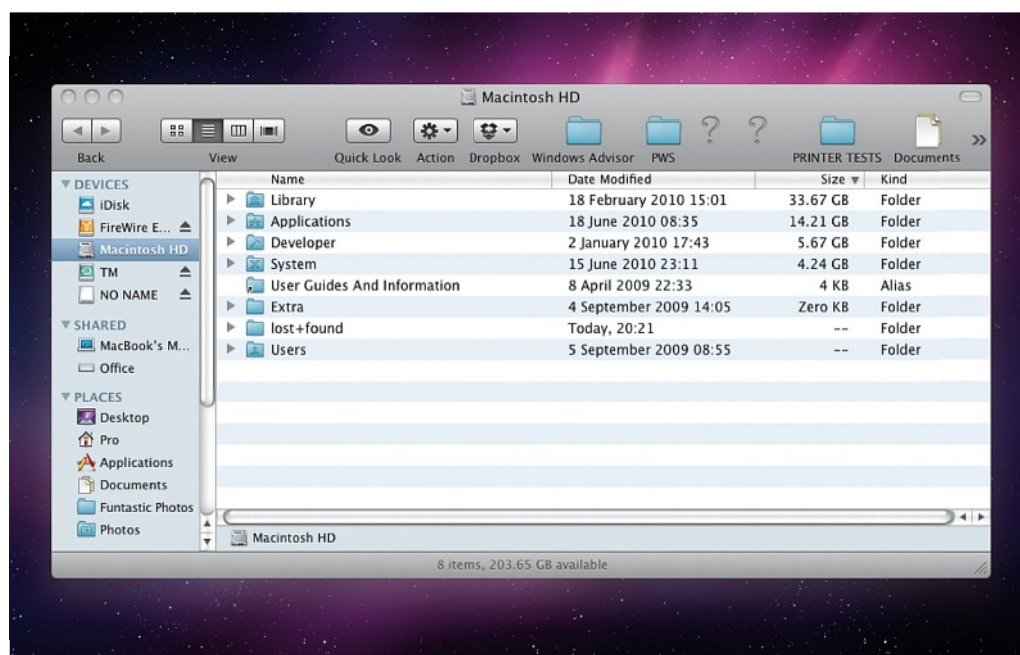
work yourself into a frenzy, check the contents of the folder – if there's not much in there and the creation dates are old, you can rest easy. If, however, there are lots of files in there and they're all recent, this might indicate a problem with the file system or even your hard disk.

The appearance of a folder called lost+found on your hard disk can

consuming, it'll save you from larger problems the sooner you do it.

If you want, use a third-party disk tool like *Disk Warrior* to assess the health of your file system. This will let you know if anything is amiss and will alert you to any major issues. You should also regularly check the S.M.A.R.T. status of your hard disk in *Disk Utility*, which is handily built-in to Mac OS X.

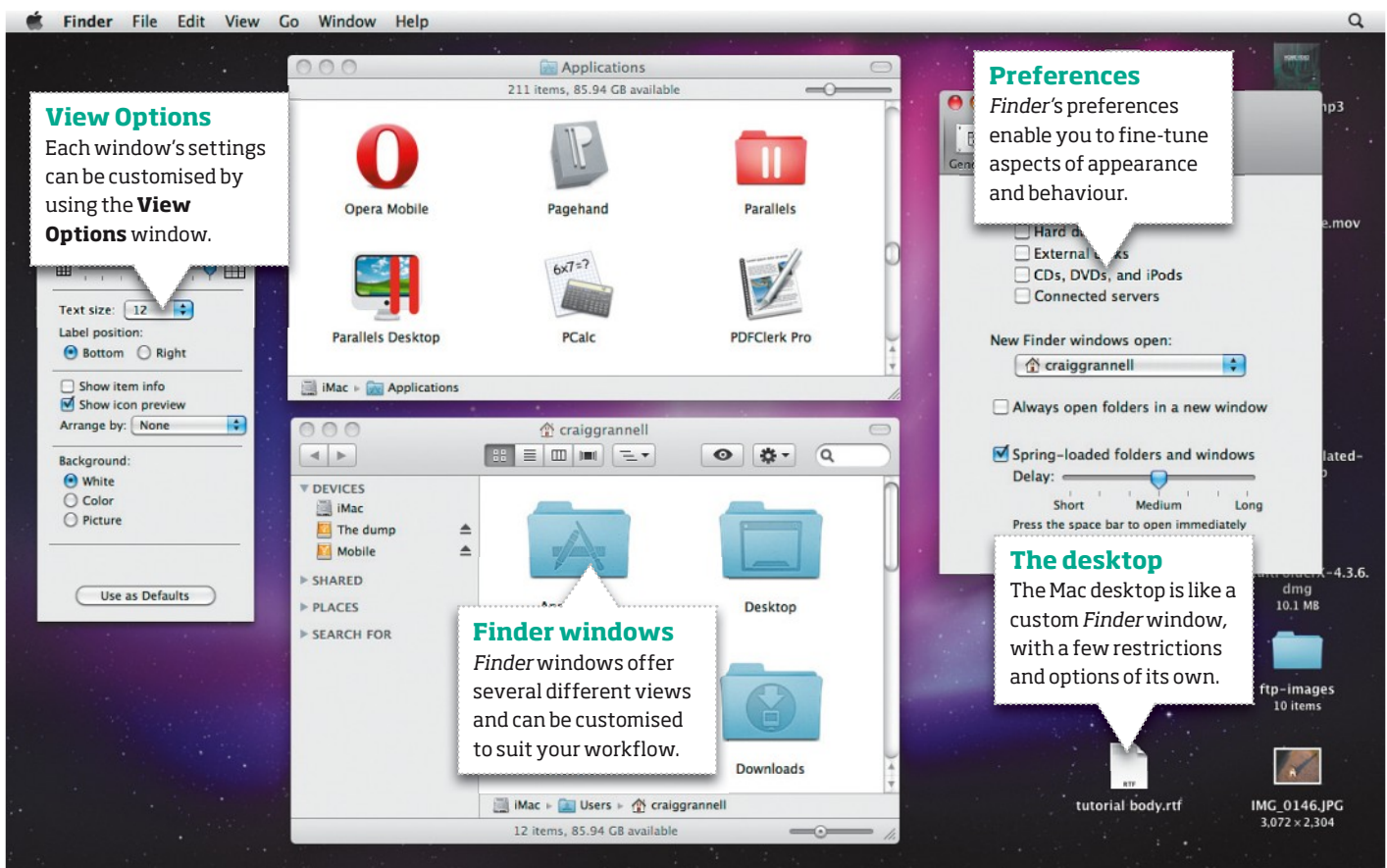
If you find a lost+found folder at the top level of your hard disk then don't panic, but do have a quick check that everything is okay with your system.



Miscreant folders

It can be a bit disconcerting to find a folder created by your Mac without your knowledge, and perhaps it's a shortcoming of the UNIX underpinnings that it isn't highlighted whenever it happens. A lost+found folder on your hard disk isn't the end of the world, but you should have a check to see if it's the harbinger of potential future problems within your system.

However, the single most important pact you should maintain with your Mac is to have a regular and systematic backup regime. That way, even if the file system has a senior moment or your hard disk annihilates itself in spectacular fashion, you won't lose anything other than time. ●



Get even more from Finder

Make your Mac experience more efficient by tweaking Finder preferences

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Mac OS X 10.6 (many options also work in earlier versions)

Think about your most-used Mac apps. You might choose *Safari*, *Pages*, *iPhoto* or *iTunes*. However, an app that might escape your furious list-making is *Finder*, largely because the Mac's file-browser is so ubiquitous that people often forget it's an application.

Finder is designed to be sleek and efficient, providing you with various ways of accessing and viewing documents on your Mac. But like many Apple apps, it's also multi-layered, having by default a simple setup, but offering extra options 'under the hood'. We'll look at some of the best options, show how to access and activate them, and detail how they can speed up your workflow.

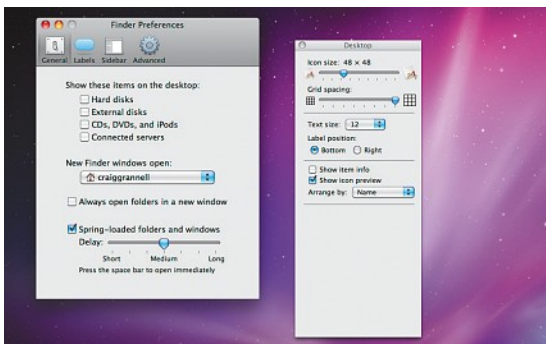
If you find the current *Finder* a little too cluttered and pine for the simpler days of Mac OS 9, windows can be changed to resemble those from Apple's older system. Click the pill-shaped button at the top-right of a *Finder* window and the toolbar and sidebar vanish. This also reverts *Finder* to a more 'spatial' model; when accessed from within Icon view, clicking folders opens them in a new window, and you cannot open the same folder in multiple windows – instead, *Finder* reveals the window that's already displaying the folder you're trying to access.

Craig Grannell



01 The default setup

If you've not made any changes to *Finder*'s setup since you've had your Mac, it will resemble what's shown in the grab above. *Finder* window toolbars will show the **Spotlight** search field and eight buttons: **Back/Forward**, the four views (**Icon**, **List**, **Column**, **Cover Flow**), **Quick Look**, and **Actions**. On the desktop, icons for files and folders will be scattered around, positioned wherever you left them, and only some volumes will be visible.



02 Tidy your desktop

There are two steps to a neater desktop. First, go to **Finder > Preferences**. In **General**, uncheck volumes you don't want to show on the desktop (bearing in mind mounted volumes can be accessed from *Finder* window sidebars). Then go to **View > View Options** and set **Arrange by** to **Name** to force items to be listed alphabetically.



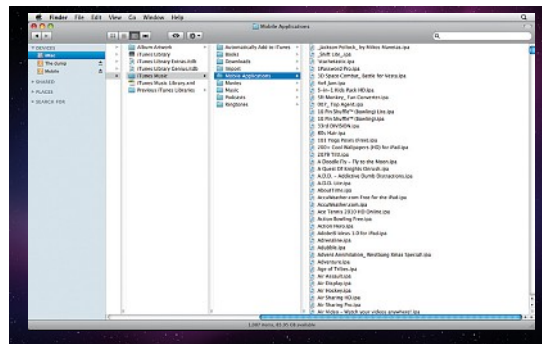
03 Show and hide item info

Leave the **View Options** window open. Keep an eye on the items on your desktop and check **Show item info**. You'll see that for certain document types, additional information is displayed. This option can in fact be set for any folder (via the **View Options** window) when you're using **Icon view**.



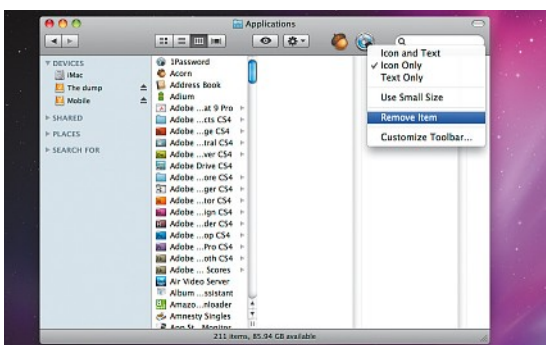
04 Tweak icon mode

On the desktop, icons are restricted to a maximum size of 128x128 pixels (adjusted by using the slider in the **View Options** window). However, open another *Finder* window, change it to **Icon view** (via the toolbar button) and drag the slider to the right. At its maximum setting, icons are 512x512 - handy for PDF and image previews.



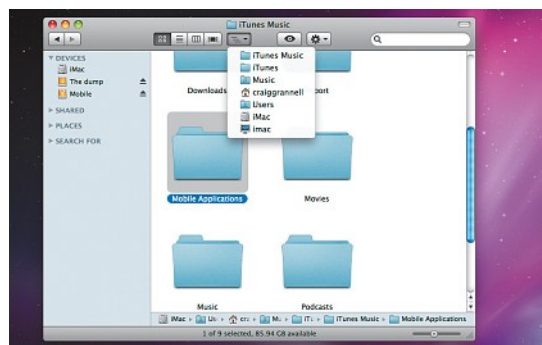
05 Control column sizes

Column view also has some handy resize tricks, this time relating to column widths. You can drag each column's widget, but a double-click stretches a column to fit the longest item's name. **⌘-click** a widget to expand all columns in this way. **⌘+⌘-click** expands all columns to match the widest. **⌘-drag** to resize columns manually.



06 Customise Finder windows

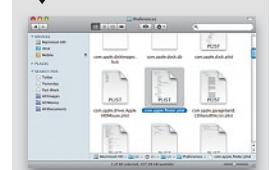
Finder windows can be customised. With the sidebar, system-level items are toggled using the **Sidebar** section of *Finder's* preferences, but you can drag any file, folder or app there as a shortcut. (Drag a link out of the sidebar to remove it.) You can also drag items to the toolbar; To remove an item **⌘-click** and select **Remove Item**.



07 View path information

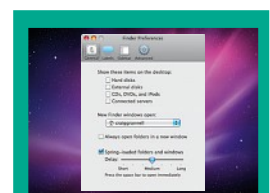
View > Customize Toolbar offers access to more buttons. **Path** is useful for rapidly moving up a folder hierarchy. Use **View > Show Path Bar** for an always-on-screen equivalent at the bottom of each *Finder* window. **Path-bar** folders can also be dragged and dropped, and items can be dropped into them. ●

>> EXPERT TIP



Back up preferences

If you're eager to experiment with *Finder* settings but would like to keep your existing setup safe, back up *Finder's* preferences. To do this, go to **~/Library/Preferences** and copy the file **com.apple.finder.plist** to your Desktop (or wherever you keep backup files). If you later decide that you'd like to replace newer settings with those you've backed up, use the following process. Go to **~/Library/Preferences** and trash the newer version of **com.apple.finder.plist** that you'll find there. Next, copy across the file you backed up. Finally, open *Terminal* and type **killall Finder**. *Finder* will restart, find the settings you copied across and revert to your original settings.



>> QUICK TIP

New *Finder* windows show your home folder by default. Not to your liking? Then in *Finder*, go to **Finder > Preferences** and select **General**. From here you can change the setting to use another folder via the **New Finder windows open** menu.

Find your way around Safari 5

Apple's new browser is preparing for the future... but it's great now!

» KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Safari 5, a free download for Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later from www.apple.com/safari

The latest version of Apple's web browser, *Safari*, adds a couple of nice features that we can use right now, but really it's all about laying the groundwork for a range of technologies that are coming in the future.

Under the bonnet, the big change is an upgrade to *Safari*'s parsing of HTML5, the coming standard for how web pages will be delivered; the web is developing into a system not only

for displaying static information, but into a rich platform for delivering new abilities and standards of interactivity. Indeed, one of the other

"The web is becoming a rich platform for delivering new kinds of interactive sites; Safari 5 is ready!"

big features, a boost to the speed of the JavaScript engine, is all about enabling so-called web applications, such as Google Docs, to run in the browser as fast as possible.

And yet while these future-proofing features will only become especially relevant in the months and years to come, *Safari 5* brings some features that we can use right now, so let's get you acquainted with them.

Christopher Phin



Preparing for HTML5

It sounds terribly dull, but HTML5 is primed to change the way many of us experience the web, and *Safari 5* adds support for a huge new chunk of the developing HTML5 specification.

Safari 5, for example, can deliver appropriately encoded video files without having to use the CPU-intensive *Flash* plug-in, and can now do so full-

screen and, if the video file contains the appropriate metadata, with closed captions. It also adds support for geolocation, using the Skyhook service to work out your rough position based on nearby Wi-Fi hotspots - try visiting the delightfully random <http://owlsnearyou.com>. Lots more elements are supported, and once their adoption is widespread, developers will take advantage of them.

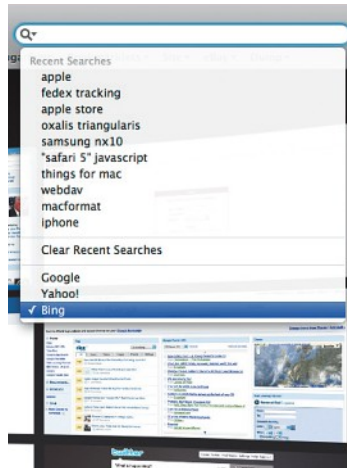


More search options

Though *Safari* still defaults to Google as its option for searching using the field at the top-right of the main window, *Safari 5* brings another choice.

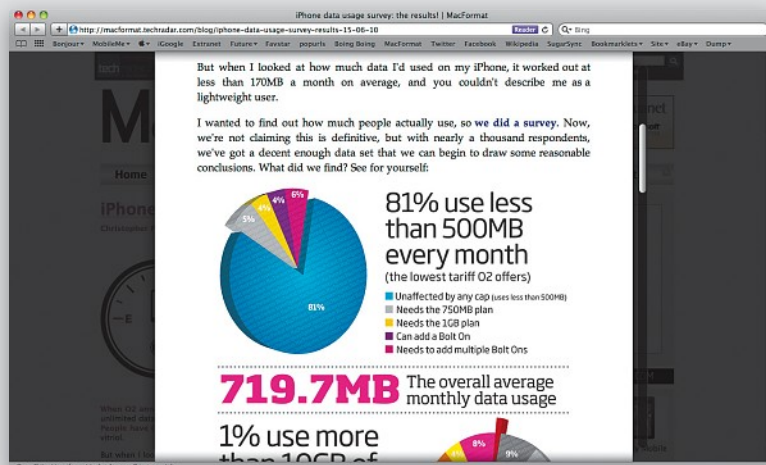
We already had, in the previous version of *Safari*, the option of switching to Yahoo for searching from this search field, and now in *Safari 5*, we've got the option of Microsoft's young search engine, Bing.

To choose it, you can either click the icon that looks like a downwards-pointing arrow next to a magnifying glass in the search field, then choose Bing at the bottom of the list, or go to the *Safari*'s preferences and, in the first, General, tab, set the default search engine.



Safari Reader

Lots of sites these days are a confusing mess of sidebars, social media icons, banners and more. If you want to quiet the noise and just concentrate on the content, you can use *Safari 5*'s new **Reader** feature. If you're on a page where *Safari* can identify a main block of text – a blog post on www.macformat.co.uk, say, but not the front page itself, as that has lots of different stories – then a **Reader** icon will appear at the right of the address bar. Click it or tap  and a clean version of the article appears. It won't work with all sites, although, with some, it will stitch multi-page articles together. You can print or email the **Reader** view too.



Boost Safari's abilities with Extensions

Continuing the theme of laying the groundwork for future developments, *Safari 5* adds support for plug-ins. It's not ready for prime-time yet (though if you follow the instructions at <http://safariextensions.tumblr.com> you can turn Extensions support on and mess around with a few plug-ins that the community has already created) but Apple is inviting developers to join the programme and submit their Extensions.

With Extensions, Apple says, developers will be able to "Create buttons for the toolbar or make your own extension bar, change the way web content appears, and add controls to web pages. *Safari* Extensions are built with web standards, so you can do it all using the power of HTML5, CSS3, and JavaScript."

It's a potentially big move for Apple; though many of us happily use the browser without any customising plug-ins, the fact that *Safari*'s competitors have offered the ability for some time meant it had begun to become a competitive disadvantage.

POWER TIPS FOR BING

If you decide to switch from Google to Bing for your default search engine, here are a few tips that will help you get more from the browser. These come from the experts at our sister title, *Windows: The Official Magazine*, who know their Bing onions!

Refine results

You can easily find websites that are more relevant to you. Click on **Preferences** in the top right-hand corner of the page. First, set your location so that you get search results relevant to your location. Type your town or city into the box next to **Current location**. Then, next to **Search language**, select **Limit my searches to pages written in the following languages** and click **English**. Then click **Save settings**.

Visual search

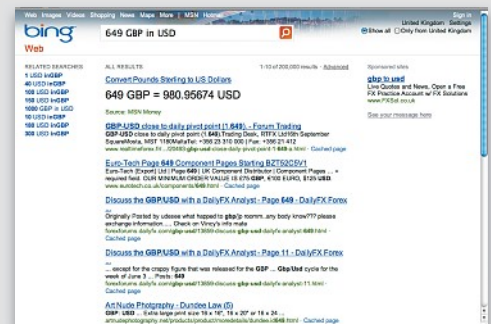
Is all that text tiring your eyes when you search for something? Bing has a cure for that: **Visual Search**. Bing brings up images instead of huge amounts of text, so you can see exactly what you're looking for. Take, for example, holidays – click **Visual Search** on the home page, then click **Travel Destinations**. Bing will show all destinations alphabetically with a picture next to each, and when you click on one you'll find out more about it. You can refine your visual search by beach destinations, city breaks and more.

Find entertainment

There's a great feature within Bing that not many people know about, because you can't access it from the home page. Type www.bing.com/entertainment into your browser address bar and hit . From here you can find music, movies and TV, and preview them within the browser window. You can also play free games and look at reviews for the big games titles out now.

Social media searching

To see what people are saying about the things you're searching for, switch to Bing's Social page to check out the latest Twitter updates. It's easy – when you've searched for something, click **More > Twitter**. For the hottest Twitter topics, click **Social beta** to get a list, along with updates on each topic.



Bing can do basic conversions, such as currency.



MR CHRISTOPHER PHIN



(late of Palnackie, Scotland) presents his

HANDSOME GORGICAL

CORNUCOPIA

of the
MOST EFFICACIOUS

Software Programmes

for Mr Steven P Jobs' patented Electronic Calculating Machines. —

The utility of which being PROVEN in daily use at the Offices of
Macintosh Format, the renowned Journal of Modern Computation



30

of the finest
miscellaneous
applications
for your

MAC.



"THE ARROW
of TRUTH"

ENGRAVED UPON THE MACINTOSH BY ADAM BANKS AT NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE; TELEGRAPH ADAMBANKS@ME.COM



30 GREAT APPS



AirDisplay

£5.99 <http://lavatron.com>



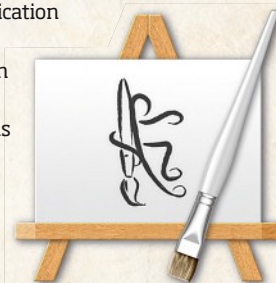
I'm a firm believer that multiple medium-sized monitors make you more productive than one big one - we humans seem to work well with compartmentalised tasks - and if you have an iPad or even iPhone, you can add this six-quid app to turn it into an extra screen for your Mac. It works over Wi-Fi, and I've found myself using it often at home when I just want a separate space to look at grabs, say, while I'm writing. It's not a permanent solution, but it's a handy thing to have. That iPads/iPhone are battery-powered is a bonus.

ARTRAGE STUDIO

£29 www.artrage.com

For all but the most dedicated - or especially solvent - graphic artists, the natural media application

Corel Painter is an expensive luxury when the *ArtRage* range exists. Its watercolour is a bit disappointing, but the acrylic paints look good, and there's enough flexibility here to work with.



I love that the interface can easily be shoved to the perimeter so that I can

concentrate on my drawing or painting - my background's in design - and the way I can have source images pinned to the screen. The tracing feature is a really great way to get a head start on a piece if you're in a hurry.

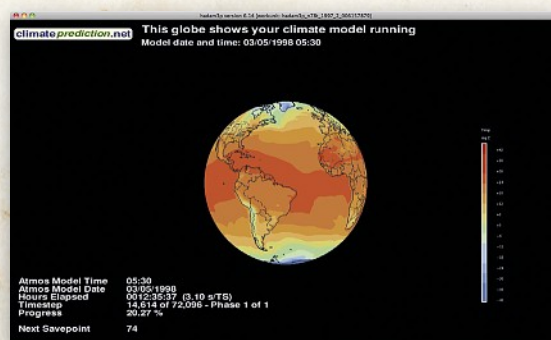
BOINC

£FREE <http://boinc.berkeley.edu/>



In the old days, if scientists wanted to crunch a bunch of numbers, they'd have to build or rent space on a supercomputer, one single, monolithic, terrifyingly expensive cluster of processors. The advent of the internet, however, has given rise to a new kind of computing: distributed computing. The basic idea may be simple - an organisation parcels up little bundles of work, and sends them out to millions of computers all over the world to do then report back on - but the results can be extraordinary. Though there are a few different distributed computing frameworks around, BOINC is particularly worthwhile as it enables lots of different research institutes to run their projects on a common system; install BOINC, and you can choose to participate in projects looking for cures for cancer and AIDS, looking for models that will help predict climate change, or even just looking for extraterrestrial life with the venerable SETI@home project.

Install BOINC, sign up for one or more projects, and decide how you want it to run. You could run it constantly in the background or just as a screensaver. Either way, this app offers a great way to put your Mac's spare processor cycles to good use.



Climateprediction.net models climate change to improve predictions.



Studying protein folding will help us better understand diseases.

CANDYBAR

\$29 www.panic.com



CandyBar helps you organise icons that you've downloaded from sites such as <http://iconfactory.com>

- iPhoto for icons, if you like - and lets you apply them individually or in sets to specific items or system-wide. It also doubles up, for me, as a quick-and-dirty way to apply ICNS files to folders, or convert *Photoshop* sketches to icons that can be applied.

Carbonite

£41.95/year www.carbonite.com



I'm paranoid about backup - as everyone ought to be! - so as well as using *Time Machine*, *SugarSync* and *SuperDuper*, all for different reasons, I also bought a subscription to *Carbonite* as it enables me to back up everything on my MacBook Pro to a secure, offsite, properly managed server system. Even if my flat was razed to the ground, my data - irreplaceable photos, never mind work stuff - is safe.

COCKTAIL

\$14.95 www.maintain.se



I fire up *Cocktail* every once in a while to clear out some of the background detritus that accumulates on any modern computer; blitzing log files and the like, and running a permissions check. It does more, though, offering simple checkboxes to help configure hidden options on your system. Exhaustive to the point of baffling, but worth the poking around.

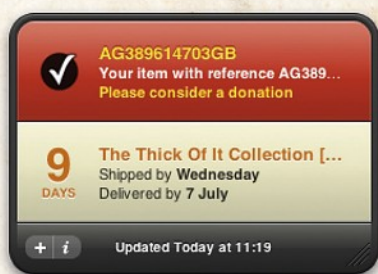


DELIVERY STATUS

£FREE

<http://lunecloud.com>

This lovingly crafted little widget for Mac OS X's *Dashboard* layer tracks deliveries though all the big courier companies, including City Link, FedEx, Parcelforce, the Royal Mail, TNT, UPS and USPS. It also ties directly into some stores' order and delivery systems, most notably Amazon and, of course, Apple. Entering delivery details is easy, and the fact that it's a *Dashboard* widget means you only have to tap a single key to take a quick glance at how your delivery is coming along. Of course it's only as good as the data the courier provides, but it's undeniably more convenient, especially if you're tracking multiple deliveries. I love, too, that it syncs with a service in the cloud that can also push delivery notifications to a £2.99 iPhone/iPad app.



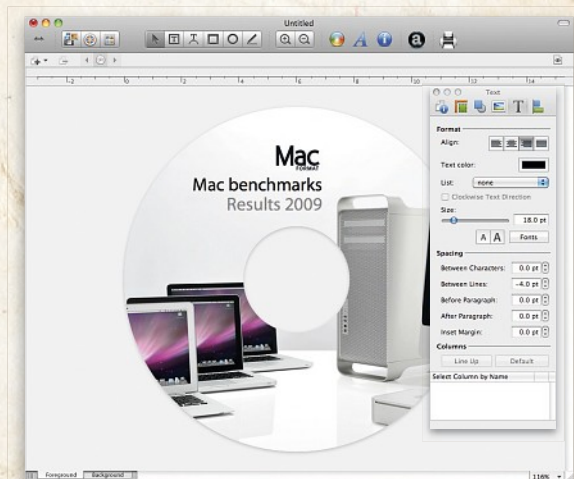
Track deliveries on your Mac or iOS device.

Disc Cover 2

\$34.95 www.belightsoft.com

The software from Ukrainian company BeLight Software is clean, friendly, very Apple-like, and often criminally ignored by other Mac-centric magazines and websites. Its *Pages*-like desktop publishing package *Swift Publisher 2* won our group test in issue 222, and *Disc Cover 2* is not only instantly familiar to anyone who uses *Swift Publisher*, but is equally intuitive for any Mac user.

It's an app, as the name suggests, for creating labels and cases for CDs and DVDs, and it works very well indeed. Launch it and it opens with a blank document for a CD or DVD face; when you can drop in graphics, *Disc Cover* crops them down to fit the circular shape automatically, and lets you move, rotate and scale at will. What I really love is that there are hundreds of presets for lots of different types of CD label systems from Avery, Fellowes and many more besides, and if you're printing onto sheets of labels, it's easy to tell the software which of the labels on an A4 page, for example, you want to print to. Of course, you can set up custom layouts, and manually nudge the printout if alignment is a little off.



It takes minutes to create slick, professional covers; beats a Sharpie.

Best of all for me, I can use *Disc Cover* to create designs that I can send wirelessly to print directly onto the face of printable discs on my Canon Pixma MP640. And it's so quick and easy to use that I'm happy to throw together a design for compilation CDs to keep in the car, never mind crafting covers for personal and professional projects.

It can also do layouts for tray and cover inserts, and import track information directly from *iTunes*. If you own a recent version of *Roxio Toast*, you'll actually find a 'lite' edition of *Disc Cover* in the same folder.

EyeTV

From £49.95 with tuner
www.elgato.com

The current incarnation of this app is nicely evolved, but it's functionally very similar to how it's always been - *EyeTV* is still the nicest way to watch, record and edit TV on your Mac. I use it on my Mac mini media centre all the time; I particularly like setting up a Smart Guide to list all upcoming films that I can just scroll through and record, later trimming and exporting to *Front Row*. It has broadened my taste in movies, and boosted my *iTunes* collection.

HANDBRAKE

£FREE <http://handbrake.fr>

Handbrake is basically a transcoder; it converts digital video files into a different format.

Sounds dull, but one of its best uses is to convert almost any movie into a file that can play on an iPod, iPhone or iPad. It comes with a slew of different presets, but it's hugely configurable as well, so that with sufficient experimentation, you can balance quality and compression to suit you. It hooks up with *VLC* (www.videolan.org) for codec help and some other naughtiness that lets it convert commercial DVDs.

iPlayer Desktop

£FREE www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer

Yes, it's an AIR app, and yes, its use of Flash for the video player means it's really demanding on your CPU, but the ability to download BBC programmes for later watching is terrific.

iSALE

£39.95 www.equinux.com

Last time I went to sell something on eBay, I was working on a clean system and didn't have any eBay apps installed. The online process was horrible, however, so I installed *iSale* quick-smart.



iStat Menus

\$16 <http://bjango.com>



As you'd expect, I'm forever working on fresh Macs, or setting up new systems. Literally, the first thing I do - before I even open *Software Update* to patch the system - is go to bjango.com and download *iStat Menus*.

Without it installed on a Mac, I feel blind; is that site loading

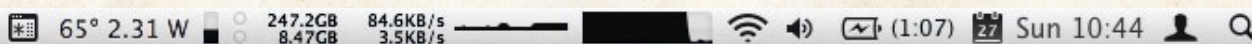
slowly because the server is having problems, or is it my internet connection? Why are my MacBook Pro's fans suddenly spinning up; what app's gobbling up CPU cycles? Hey, that *Time Machine* backup seems to have stalled; is there actually any data flowing on the FireWire 800 bus? Do I have enough space on

my internal SSD to download that HD programme on iPlayer?

iStat Menus puts a series of highly configurable status icons in my Mac's menubar that I glance frequently to check what my Mac's up to; if I want more detail, I can click on the various icons to drill down into richer info. And even though, in Snow

Leopard, the Mac can display the date beside the clock in the menubar, I much prefer the smart black icon that *iStat Menus* can use.

Oh, and the second thing I do is open *Terminal* and write `defaults write com.apple.dock no-glass-boolean YES` to disable that visually cluttered 3D Dock.



Last.fm

£FREE www.last.fm



Spotify? Whatever. I still love the (ad-free) service from Last.fm. Give it the name of an artist, a genre or a tag, and it will create a unique radio station for you, playing similar music in a never-ending stream over the internet. It's terrific for discovering new artists, and really superb on the iPhone.

And as a geek, I particularly like that it optionally tracks what you're listening to in iTunes, and lets you review your habits.

LOGMEIN

From £FREE
www.logmein.com

I like the promise of Back to My Mac, the bit of my MobileMe subscription that lets me connect to my Mac at home, say, from the office, and control it as if I were sitting in front of it. In my experience, though, it's unreliable; *LogMeIn* always works, and there's an iPhone/iPad app as well.

MacUpdate Desktop

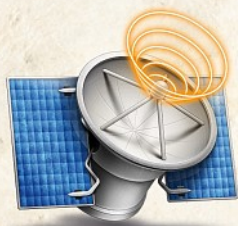
\$20/year www.macupdate.com



Keeping your software up to date is usually a good idea; not only do updated versions sometimes add new features, but they also bring with them fixes for bugs and often stability and security advances as well. It can be a pain to have to check the sites of dozens of developers on the off-chance that an update is available, but *MacUpdate* checks them all for you; it can update most apps itself, so you can do everything with one click.

NETNEWSWIRE

£10.62 www.newsgator.com



RSS feeds, those content-only, stripped-down versions of websites that get piped automatically to you whenever new content is added, are the best way to keep yourself in the loop. I have a very carefully selected list of a little over 150 feeds managed in a system of folders in *NetNewsWire* that help keep me informed and entertained.

Because *NetNewsWire* syncs with the free Google Reader online service, I can view and read my feed items on my iPhone, iPad, PC - yes, I have one! - and both my personal and work Macs. When I read an item on one, it's marked as read on others.

Nisus Writer Pro

\$79 <http://nisus.com>

I do most of my writing for MacFormat in *Nisus Writer Pro*. For me this word processor offers the perfect balance of simplicity and flexibility. It's more powerful than this, but you can think of it a bit like *TextEdit* with a fly-out drawer on the right with a bunch more options. It supports styles, of course, can do footnotes and tables - and tables of contents - and some basic layout things such as changing margins and creating multi-column layouts and sections. Most importantly of all it shows a live word and character count, and through its support for all the standard Mac OS X text-ending shortcuts, I can quickly select blocks of text to see if I'm writing to fit. And I am.





30 GREAT APPS



PLEX

£FREE www.plexapp.com



Nobody has been able to make the perfect interface for watching TV and movies. But,

the best option we have is *Plex*. It's a brilliant open-source project and as well as giving you a great interface to local files and streaming services, it packs lots of codecs to help play most files.

RIPIT

\$19.95

<http://thelittleappfactory.com>

There are lots of legitimate reasons to want to rip DVDs – though this software has other uses too – and *RipIt* does it with aplomb. Stick in a disc and *RipIt* will save it to your hard disk without compression (it does basic compression if you want) as a .dvdmedia file that you can double-click to watch in *DVD Player*.

SOCIALITE

£20.60

www.realmacsoftware.com



Sick of logging into twitter.com, facebook.com, flickr.com, google.com/reader and digg.com,

trying to work out what you've seen already? *Socialite* puts them all into one app, and lets you reply to and interact with updates, photos and more. It takes a while to set up, but it's worth it.

SPOTIFY

£FREE www.spotify.com

We're banned from using Spotify at work, and you can understand why; if hundreds of people were using this free music streaming service, our bandwidth would plummet! At home, though, it's a fantastic way of checking out bands; if you decide to buy an album or track, be sure to do it through Spotify so they get a kick-back.

Scrivener

\$39.95 www.literatureandlatte.com

Most Apple-using folks, when comparing Mac and PC, will talk about the fact that there exists for Mac OS X an equivalent of pretty much any app Windows users will be familiar with. What they often fail to mention, though, is that the Mac boasts a handful of applications that have no equivalent on Windows, and that are so wonderful, they are reason enough to buy a Mac. *Scrivener* is one such app.

It's a word processor, but one focussed on the task of writing complex, structured documents such as novels or, in my case, features and group tests for *MacFormat*. (It also has a range of presets for writing screenplays, and so is a legitimate competitor to the heavyweight *Final Draft* app.)

Rather than creating one hugely long, linear document in *Nisus Writer* or (shudder) *Word*, *Scrivener* lets me create a raft of discrete, re-orderable documents that I can focus on one at a time. Each document can have a word or character count associated with it, as well

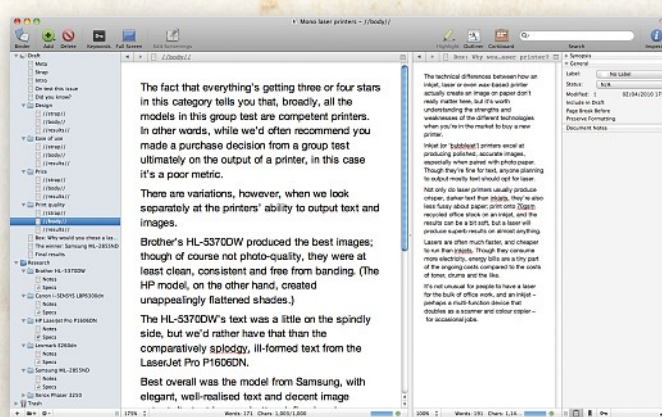
as a notes field that is invaluable when writing group tests. The Research folder can hold webarchive files from *Safari* – a terrific way for me to refer to products' spec sheets or Wikipedia references, for example – as well as PDFs. (After we've decided on a layout for a complex feature, Alex, our art editor, creates a rough layout and outputs this as a PDF, so it's great to have as reference.) And because you can split the writing view horizontally or vertically, it's easy to write while keeping an eye on your notes and reference.

Documents can be exported in a range of formats, and *Scrivener* documents themselves are just a special kind of folder; right-click on one to **Show Package Contents** and you'll see that they just consist of a series of nested RTFs. Your writing isn't locked away in a dangerously proprietary format.

The developer himself is actually a writer who, when he realised there was no software that did what he actually wanted it to, took time out, taught himself how to code, and created *Scrivener*.

It shines through; this really is a writer's tool, and I'm delighted not only by *Scrivener*'s fantastic abilities, but also by the fact that whenever I discover a new ability, it works in exactly the way that I'd want it to.

Scrivener isn't a must-have for everyone, but it's a boon for serious writers.



SUGARSYNC

From \$49.99/year www.sugarsync.com

I bought a subscription to *SugarSync* because it acts not just as an offsite backup – copying essential work files to its servers – but because it syncs files across multiple computers, even those running Mac OS X 10.5 or Windows XP and later.

Unlike *Dropbox*, which currently mandates that you put the files you want to sync into a specific folder, *SugarSync* just asks you what folders from your existing folder hierarchy you want to sync. I especially love that if I have to put my MacBook Pro in for repair, I can just use another of my computers; all the files will be there, and any changes I make will be synced back when I open up the laptop again.





30 GREAT APPS

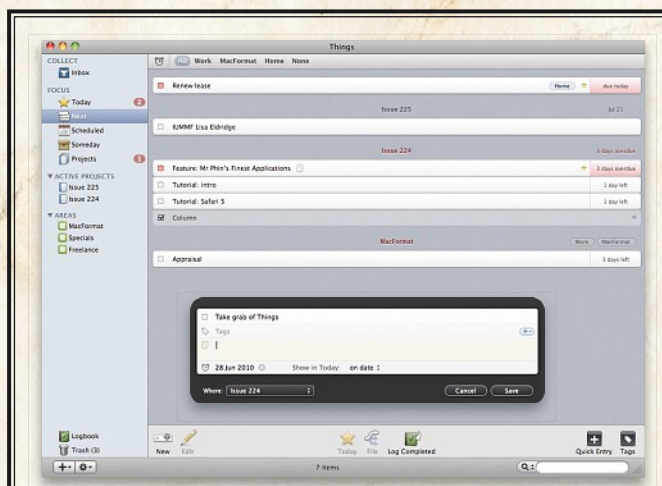
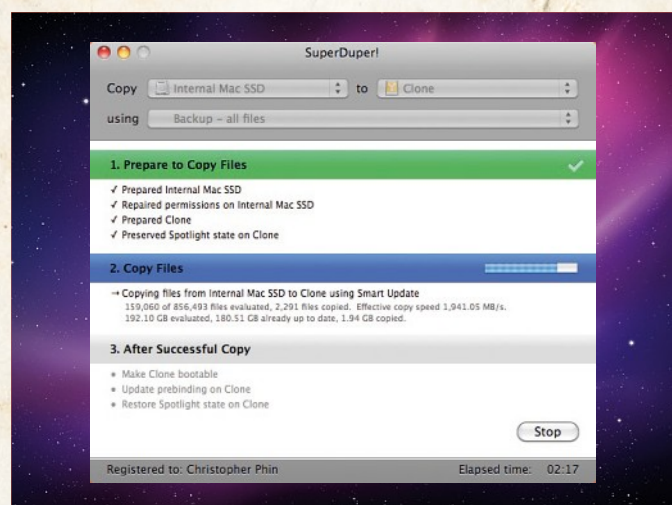


SuperDuper!

£19.85 www.shirt-pocket.com

If the SSD in my MacBook Pro failed, I have to give all the other backup systems I use time before I could actually start working again. With *Time Machine*, I'd have to reinstall and start to copy everything back to a new disk, and *Carbonite* and *SugarSync* would take an age to download.

SuperDuper!, though, creates a bootable backup. I just have to restart and hold down , pick the *SuperDuper* backup volume, and I'm working again. The paid version does incremental backups, so the clone is updated at 16:45 every work day.



THINGS

£44.95 <http://culturedcode.com>

Forty-five quid? For a to-do manager? Yeah, I know, it seems like - and, frankly, is - a lot, but, although I'm late to the party, I'm a total *Things* convert. The beauty of the system, for me, is that once I've taken a little time to set up areas of responsibility, projects, tags and deadlines, I can throw stuff I need to do into the app, and each day check it to see what I need to do.

It syncs with the iPhone and iPad - though each edition is a separate app - over a local network (cloud sync is coming soon), and though the system isn't perfect, it's a great de-stresser; I don't have to worry about remembering stuff any more.

TRANSMISSION

£FREE www.transmissionbt.com



There are lots of clients for the Mac that hook into the world of BitTorrent, but *Transmission* is the one I use; it's clean, simple-yet-configurable, and Mac-like.

BitTorrent is a system for downloading files that are held not on a central server, but on the hard disks of many thousands of ordinary users like you and me all over the world.

Though it has a murky reputation, BitTorrent can be used for good; Linux distros, for example, many of which work on Intel or even PowerPC Mac hardware, are often distributed using it. I like the web interface, too, which lets me add torrents to my Mac mini at home from my iPhone when I'm away.

Transmit

\$34 www.panic.com



It will come as no surprise to learn that I'm forever shuttling huge files - podcast recordings, high-resolution graphics, *InDesign* files and more - around the world, especially as we have a sister magazine, *Mac|Life*, in San Francisco. And I also, because of the way our networks are set up at Future, use FTP to transfer stuff to and from our corporate servers from the personal MacBook Pro on which I do all my work.

Transmit is a lovely client for FTP, SFTP, WebDAV (the protocol iDisk uses; *Transmit* is a brilliant, fast, front end to iDisk) and other standards, and the new version even lets you mount remote servers as disks in your *Finder* sidebar, making it easy to open files live from remote servers. Its developers are gratifyingly passionate about the Mac, too; the attention to detail, even just in the order page online, is staggering.

VMware Fusion

£53.95 www.vmware.com



I always have to keep the occasional Windows machine around to check stuff, and *Fusion* is my favourite way to do it. I keep virtual machines for every major version of Windows since 3.1 as virtual machines on a big external disk. Ironically, perhaps, our sister PC magazines often come to me for grabs.



WALLET

\$20 www.acrylicapps.com

It's fitting that the last app in this feature should be *Wallet*, as without it, I'd lose all the serial numbers for my app. *Wallet* lets me keep them, with login details and other notes, all secure and synced via MobileMe to my iPhone using a separate £2.99 app.

Q&A

● HINTS & TIPS ● TROUBLESHOOTING ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ESSENTIAL INFO

>> MEET YOUR Q&A EXPERT

Whatever your Mac-related problem, from misbehaving MacBooks to a wireless networks, Luis Villazon can help.



>> ASK LUIS A QUESTION



Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your queries to Luis at macformat.help@futurenet.com and see if he can help.

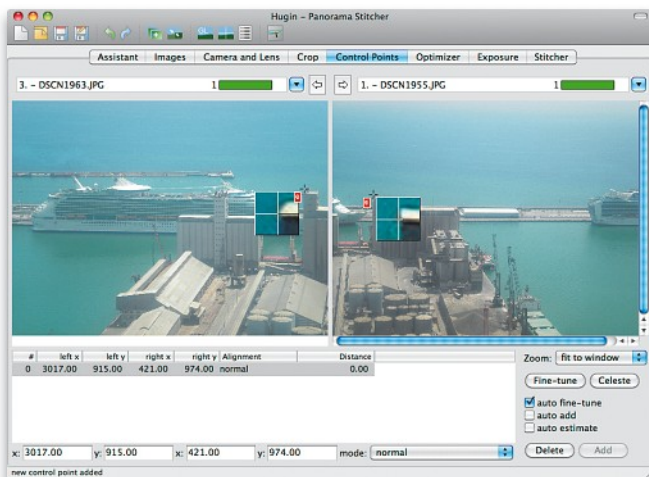
"I need to stitch larger scans together. Help!"

Q Many genealogical documents are larger than A4 in size and quite a few are larger than A3. ArcSoft *Scan-n-Stitch* software exists for those with PCs; larger size documents, maps and so on, can then be scanned with an A4 scanner and then stitched together to form one sheet. Is there anything like this for the Mac?

Peris Sinnett-Jones

A There are several, from free GPL utilities such as *hugin* (<http://hugin.sourceforge.net>) to commercial software such as *PTGui* (about £70 from www.ptgui.com). There's even a browser-based utility at www.dermandar.com, although it's designed for panoramic photos, so I think it might only let you stitch side by side. Wikipedia has quite a good round-up of the applications available for all the main platforms in its article

Use photo-stitching tools to stitch together document scans as well.



Trick your Time Machine into using less space, so you don't clutter up your hard drive.

'Comparison of photo stitching applications' (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_photo_stitching_applications).

"How can I restrict Time Machine's size?"

Q I'm a big film fan and I spend a lot of my time porting over films to my Mac and its external hard drive. It's great because I can watch movies on the go without having to lug around an ugly black CD wallet. However, I'm also running *Time Machine* into this external hard drive, and if I'm not careful I'm going to run out of space. Is it possible to control how many backups *Time Machine* makes onto the external hard drive? I don't know if I need the data from way back in October.

Daniel Holt

A *Time Machine* stores backups differently according to whether the backup disk is connected via your local network or directly attached using USB or FireWire. Networked *Time Machine* volumes are created as sparse image bundles, which have their maximum size set when the

bundle is first created. This lets you fool *Time Machine* into using less than the whole disk by putting large files (such as non-sparse disk images) on the disk before you turn on *Time Machine* for the first time. Once the sparse image bundle has been created, you can remove the padding files and the *Time Machine* backup won't grow beyond this original limit.

On locally attached disks, though, *Time Machine* backups use ordinary files and folders, and the backups will keep growing until they fill the entire volume. The solution is to make sure that the volume is smaller than the disk, which you do by partitioning that disk. See the step-by-step guide overleaf for how to do this.

"Why can't I send any emails on Mail or Thunderbird?"

Q All of a sudden, *Mail* on my G5 iMac will receive but won't send! No settings were changed and I double-checked them to make sure. I get an error message telling me that my outgoing server (smtp.blueyonder.co.uk) could not send the message. My ISP is Virgin Media; their tech department has been extremely



Having too many firewalls enabled at any one time can cause many annoying problems with certain services and it won't appreciably improve your security, either.

helpful but they haven't fixed the problem. I can send via the Virgin Media webmail page but not from Apple Mail or Mozilla Thunderbird, even if I change the outgoing server to `smtp.virginmedia.com`. Reinstalling Leopard hasn't helped either. My partner, whose PC is on the desk next to mine, also uses Virgin Media but she can send and receive okay.

Luis, I await your comments with much enthusiasm!

Glenn Langford

A Rather than trying to decide what the problem is, let's take a step back for a moment and consider what the problem isn't. We know it isn't anything to do with Mail (because the same thing happens in Thunderbird too); it's not Virgin Media or your router or your firewall (your partner's PC is okay); it isn't Leopard, because you've reinstalled, and it isn't an SMTP relay problem (which accounts for nearly all of those 'can receive but can't send' problems) since it doesn't work even if you send through Virgin's SMTP server. But something that is specific to your iMac, and which has changed recently, is preventing you from sending to an SMTP server - seemingly



any server. And I can't even, in good conscience, reach for that old troubleshooting standby, the preference file.

Reinstalling Leopard would leave application preference files in place, but to suggest that you have corrupted preferences in Mail and Thunderbird at the same time is just too much of a stretch.

What we are left with then, at the bottom of this already well-scraped barrel, are two possibilities, but neither of them especially promising. The first is that you have recently installed some new software or updated a driver that you didn't think to tell me about because it seems so unrelated, but despite this it is managing to interfere with SMTP authentication somehow. No, I can't see how that could happen either, but uninstall it just in case. The second is that maybe some piece of software has enabled the old ipfw firewall (which is disabled by default in OS X 10.5.1 and up) and it is erroneously blocking port 25.

Disable it again in Terminal by typing: `sudo /sbin/ipfw disable firewall`.

Don't worry, you'll still have the application-level firewall of Leopard, as well as the hardware firewall in your broadband router so this is perfectly safe. ➤

Testing times

Bill Gallop



We've all heard the adage 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it', but sometimes a software update is too tempting to resist. Or maybe it's just a matter of needing a specific bug fix so you have no choice. But there's always that nagging worry that installing said update might just break something else. A good way of making sure your attempts to fix one problem don't lead to another is to test the update first, and to make sure you can easily go back to how things were before you started.

I've talked before about imaging your hard drive and making backups before you change anything, but even if you don't have another drive to make a copy to, you may not be out of luck. Macs are shipping with bigger and bigger hard drives, and for many people there's far more space available than they actually need. You can make use of this space by partitioning the drive and making part of it a testing environment.

Before starting, though, I'll issue the usual warning. Back up your data! Borrow a hard drive from a friend if you have to or back up to DVD-R with BeLight's *Gat Backup* (<http://bit.ly/c8s7eG>) which is free and can span a backup across multiple discs, so you really have no excuse.

"A good way of making sure that your attempts to fix one problem don't lead to another is to test the update first"

Once you've backed up you can then partition your drive by using *Disk Utility*. First check how much space you're currently using on your drive: select it in the *Finder*, choose **Get Info** from the **File** menu and make a note of the size listed as **Used**. Your testing partition needs to be at least this big and then some for space to work, maybe an extra GB or two. Add a new partition in *Disk Utility* and resize it as appropriate, and click **Apply** then **Partition**.

Partitioning the drive has given you some space to use as your testing environment, but you now need to clone your existing setup into the space. One of the best tools to do this is *Carbon Copy Cloner* (on your disc). It's a good idea to now rename your testing partition so that you know which is which, as both will look identical in use.

Once you've cloned the drive, go to System Preferences > Startup Disk, select your new partition then reboot. You're now working in your testing environment - go ahead and apply your updates, and test them thoroughly to see if they do what you want, as well as not doing things you don't want.

Bill is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet (www.equanet.co.uk). Each month he will share his knowledge with you, from upgrading your operating system to the advantages of RAW files.

>> QUICK TIP

Open the *Font Book* application, select all your fonts and click File > Validate Fonts to check for corrupted fonts than can cause problems in other applications.

"My iPhoto Places are inaccurate. Can you help?"

Q I have recently sold my Windows 7 laptop and bought a MacBook Pro. However, as much as I like my new Mac, I am disappointed with *iPhoto* and Places. I liked the way pins were being dropped on the map, to show places where photos were taken. So I invested in a new camera with GPS, only to find the information was wrong, or the details for the town, city or village was given only as 'England'. This was not the fault of the camera, as this happened also with my iPhone. Pins are also being dropped in the wrong position to where the photo was taken - for instance, Falmouth was treated as Flushing, which is actually a few miles away.

Martin Riley

A It's not entirely the fault of *iPhoto*, either. Your camera stores the latitude and longitude coordinates from the GPS receiver in the EXIF metadata of the image file, when the photo is taken. But to turn this into a place name, *iPhoto* looks up the coordinates in Google Maps. There are gaps in this database, and when it can't find a match, Google Maps will return a nearby place name or else just the name of the enclosing country or region. You can edit the location data from within *iPhoto* though.



If Google Maps doesn't supply accurate locations to *iPhoto*, edit the info yourself.

What does the message 'Killed by signal 15' mean?

Q I have Snow Leopard on my MacBook Air and I keep getting odd responses when I use *Terminal*. The first is 'Killed by signal 15'. I've read about this on the web and there was a guide to uncommenting this in *Subversion*, which I did but to no effect.

The other response I am getting is 'unknown-f0-1e-df-f0-da-a0'. I have changed the numbers in the string because I do not know whether the information is something that is private to me and should be kept hidden. Any idea what this is?

David Bennett

A Signal 15 is the 'software termination' signal. It's what you are sending to an application when you use the 'kill' command. This is the polite way of asking a process to terminate, rather than 'kill -9', which issues a Signal 9 'software kill' signal that forcibly quits the process. The set of six hexadecimal numbers looks like a MAC address to me. This is the serial number that uniquely identifies every network adaptor. Unlike IP addresses, these aren't reused from one LAN to the next: they are embedded in the firmware at the factory.

Putting the two together, it looks like you are running some sort of script or process that is trying to access a network adaptor that doesn't exist on this machine and, perhaps

>> MACFIXIT TIPS / Have all Finder subfolders open in a specific view

In OS X the view options for a specific window are inherited from the first opened folder - usually the user's home folder. So if you have the home folder in a specific view, any subfolders, if they are opened in the same window frame will be displayed in the current Icon or List view.

This can make managing folder views difficult when you have the option set to have folders opened by default in new windows. Many people organise projects in subfolders, but would like to open them separately and

have their views set consistently without having to set each folder. Unfortunately, the *Finder* is built with simplicity in mind. To get around the limitations, when it comes to folder views use *Automator* to apply **Set Folder Views** to all subfolders in the project. Just create a new *Automator* workflow and make the first module either **Get Specified Finder Items** or **Get Selected Finder Items**, and then use **Set Folder Views** as the second item. In the folder views settings module, be sure to

check the **Apply changes to sub-folders** option, and then when you run the workflow you will be able to change the view options on one folder and all enclosed folders. Additionally, click the **Options** button and enable **Show this action when the workflow runs** to be presented with the view options to set when the workflow is run.

After this is done, if you have the *Finder* set to use one window, hold **⌘** when opening subfolders to view them in a new window. Or, where you can have the *Finder*

open folders in new windows by default, hold **⌘** when you want to inherit settings and have folders opened in the same window.

When using *Automator*, you can save the workflow as a *Finder* plugin in Leopard or service in Snow Leopard, which will allow you to select a target folder and run the workflow using the contextual menu.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

because of this, is quitting with a signal 15 message. Exactly what that script or process might be, I can't say from here, but you need to figure out why the MAC address is wrong if you want to proceed. The 'Killed by signal 15' message sounds more serious, but actually isn't.

"Can AirPort Extreme boost a wireless signal?"

Q I have just ordered a 27-inch iMac, my first Mac. My house, being a relatively big one, gets poor Wi-Fi signal. The router (not sure of make/model - I want to say Netgear, but I'm probably wrong) has an average wireless signal, especially when most Wi-Fi enabled objects are ironically in the same room.

But when using my iPod touch, my smartphone and my netbook around the house, the signal weakens very rapidly.

All four available Ethernet connections on the router/modem are currently in use (two PCs, PS3, Xbox 360) so that leaves my PS3, PC and soon my iMac to rely on wireless. I'm thinking of buying an AirPort Extreme so I can play my music from iTunes over speakers around the house. Can it also be connected to the network to boost signal strength?

Michael Henson

A You mean the AirPort Express, not the Extreme. The Extreme is the larger, flatter box (the same footprint as the early-2010 Mac mini). It gives you three wired Ethernet ports, as well as the upstream Ethernet port that you would use to connect it to the broadband modem/router. The Extreme also has an enhanced antenna and almost certainly would extend your Wi-Fi range quite a bit, but it doesn't have a 3.5mm jack to directly connect speakers. The AirPort Express is the smaller box and does have the speaker jack. It is designed to extend your Wi-Fi network, but be aware that wireless networks can be finicky things and work best when all the kit comes from the same provider, so would work best in conjunction with the AirPort Extreme.

MACFIXIT TIPS / Font sizes changing in web browsers

Sometimes, font sizes in browsers, particularly *Safari*, change as they are being used. Also, when browsing, the text and some images will occasionally zoom in.

Safari zooming

It is easy to inadvertently activate *Safari*'s zoom feature, which increases font and picture sizes. This can be activated by pressing $\text{⌘} + \text{⌘} + \text{⌘} + \text{⌘}$ to zoom in or out, but also can be activated if you use a multi-touch trackpad.

The system will perform a zoom function in the foremost app if you use the pinch gesture on a trackpad, and in *Safari* this activates the zoom feature. If you separate your fingers when scrolling up and down on a page, this can be interpreted as zoom.

You can use an alternative trackpad driver such as *BetterTouchTool* (in beta development) that allows you to customise the pad to decrease the sensitivity of the zoom gesture and make it easier to scroll without activating it.

System zooming

OS X has a system-wide zoom in **Universal Access**, which increases the size of the display output, pixel-for-pixel. This causes the extents of the output to be larger than the viewable area, so to allow these areas to be viewable, the system will center the display on the mouse position. This results in everything being larger on the display, and the screen moving as you move the mouse cursor.

This feature can be enabled in **System preferences**, or by pressing $\text{⌘} + \text{⌘} + \text{⌘} + \text{⌘}$ followed by $\text{⌘} + \text{⌘} + \text{⌘} + \text{⌘}$ to zoom in and out; it can also be activated by scrolling gestures as well as the scroll wheel on other mice. Hold down ⌘ when scrolling, and the system will activate the zoom.

Inadvertent activation may happen more for people who use ⌘ and other modifier keys often when using the mouse, so beware. Turn this shortcut off (or change its activating modifier key) by going to the **Mouse** system preferences and unchecking the option to zoom using the scroll wheel.



"How do I do a clean install of Snow Leopard?"

Q I have a 2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mac mini running OS X 10.5. I've bought Snow leopard and want to complete an Erase and Install before I perform the upgrade. After I insert the 10.5 DVD it mounts and I get the restart option; however, when the machine restarts I get a grey screen with a timer wheel and nothing else happens.

Tony Kiernan

A I have seen this problem before and it was caused by badly corrupted permissions on the boot volume. And, if that's what is causing your problems, you can remedy it by booting into single-user mode (just shut down, press the power button to reboot and then hold $\text{⌘} + \text{S}$ at the chime). At the command prompt, type in the following:

```
mount -uw /
chmod 775 /
reboot
```

Now try reinstalling Snow Leopard. You don't need to reinstall 10.5 first if you don't want to, however.

Although Snow Leopard was actually marketed as an upgrade and doesn't have an **Erase and Install** option, it will, in fact, install on an empty disk. And if your disk isn't empty, you can just erase it from the Utilities menu, if you boot from the Snow Leopard DVD and mouse over the top of the installation screen. ➤

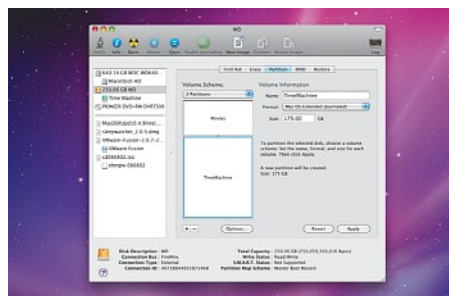
QUICK TIP

Click **Require password to wake this computer from sleep or screensaver** in **Security Preferences** to stop others snooping in your Mac while you are away.

The AirPort Extreme and AirPort Express act as Wi-Fi access points but they are specialised for different tasks.



» HOW TO / Partitioning your Time Machine disk



01 Disable Time Machine

To limit how much space *Time Machine* uses on a USB or Firewire connected disk, you need to split the disk into two volumes. First turn off *Time Machine* in **System Preferences**, just in case it tries to cut in while you're fiddling with the disk.

02 Partition the disk

Now open **Applications > Utilities > Disk Utility** and select the icon on the left for the *Time Machine* disk (the actual drive, not the *Time Machine* volume beneath it). Click the **Partition** tab and select **2 partitions** from the **Volume Scheme** drop-down list.

03 Assign half to Time Machine

Now choose the size for each partition and name each one. Click **Apply** and go back to *Time Machine's* preferences to turn it on. Each partition appears separate volume, and *Time Machine* can't grow beyond the boundary of the volume you assign to it.

» QUICK TIP

The **Quick Look** feature of OS X doesn't just work with visual media. If you select an audio file in *Finder* and hit [Space], **Quick Look** will let you listen to the file.

"How do I enter the Admin password?"

Q I followed the instructions for 'Maintenance Scripts' in *MF219* but after typing the 'sudo periodic daily wee...' command I am unable to enter my password. I get the prompt but cannot activate the cursor or type in the window.

Philip Bosworth

A That's quite normal. *Terminal* doesn't provide any visual feedback while you enter the admin password – not even the blinking caret. This is to protect you, just in case you haven't noticed the hackers watching over your shoulder. Just enter your account password blindly and hit [Return] and it should work. If the password is rejected, make sure you don't have caps lock on and that your account has administrator privileges.

"What is this strange error message?"

Q I have upgraded to a new iMac. After transferring the data from my old G4, I cannot stop a message appearing at startup that says "The server [blah blah] may not exist or it is unavailable at this time." How do I remove this?

Barry Grieves

» MACFIXIT TIPS / When Quitting is not an option

You may run across problems with some applications where they will not quit. When you use the [Command]+[Q] an application may neither respond nor show any error, and if you go directly to the application menu you will see the **Quit** option is greyed out.

This usually happens if there is an app-related notification, such as a warning that the application cannot perform a given function. These notifications may lock out some functions of applications, including the ability to quit them. While the application's Dock icon will usually bounce when these warnings are present, this may not always happen.

If you experience this problem, first try to locate the notification window and cancel it. Click the faulty application to bring it into focus, and the notification window should appear, though sometimes you may have difficulty finding the window.

While notification windows should be kept on top of other windows, errors can keep them hidden behind other windows. Try using *Exposé* to find the window; however, in many cases these notifications disappear when *Exposé* is invoked. Nevertheless, toggling *Exposé* may bring them back to the front so you can dismiss them.

If this doesn't work, try minimising the windows on the screen. Or, you can press the [Command]+[H] key, right-click the application's icon in the Dock, and choose **Hide Others** so only the windows pertaining to that one application will be shown.

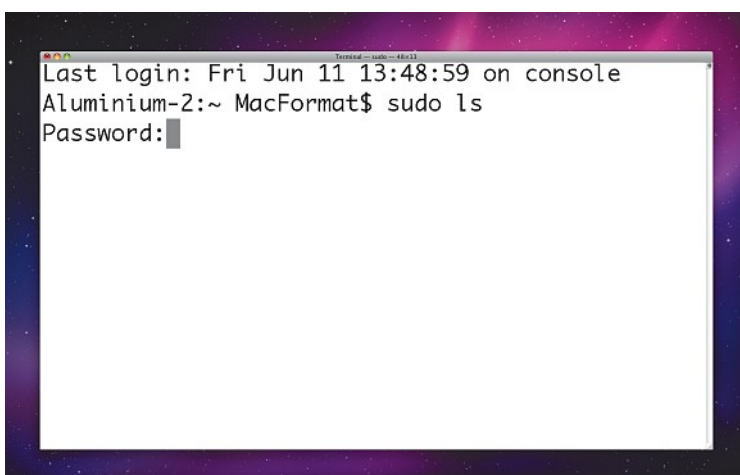
If you use Spaces, keep in mind that the notification window may be in another space, so even if you have brought the problematic application into focus and have hidden other applications, the window may still be off screen. You should be able to locate the notification window by scrolling through your spaces (it may disappear if you show all at once).

As a last resort, **Force Quit** the app. Occasionally there may be errors where the notification window is not showing, and yet the app still gets locked with no **Quit** option as if a notification window is present. If this is the case, you will need to **Force Quit** the program by either using **Activity Monitor** or choosing **Force Quit...** from the Apple menu.

Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MacFixit, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit www.macfixit.com for the latest Mac information.





Don't expect to receive any feedback when you enter in your password for sudo - remember that it's a security feature and not a pleasantry!

A I think this is caused by a PDF printing service getting corrupted during your data migration. Open Library > PDF Services in your Home folder and delete any Save PDF to... files you find there. Then restart with fingers crossed that you are in fact experiencing this particular anomaly and not a different one that happens to share the same symptoms.

"Why can't I run Time Machine on my G4 iMac?"

Q Having suffered a hard drive crash, I decided to upgrade from 10.4.11 Tiger to 10.5.6 Leopard to be able to use *Time Machine* and back up my hard drive. I'm using an AGP G4 with an upgraded 1.8GHz Sonnet processor and 1.75GB RAM, which in theory is enough to run Leopard.

I upgraded my OS X from the disc using *Erase and Install* and installed 10.5.6, but then upgraded to 10.5.8 using *Software Update*. I backed up using *Time Machine* to a My Book external hard drive. After the backup I opened *Time Machine* from the Dock but it would not reveal the backups; also the DVD drive would not open.

I assumed this was due to the upgrade to 10.5.8, so I went through a clean install again, to 10.5.6. The DVD now opens but the backup still doesn't. Can you help me get *Time Machine* running? This was the main reason I upgraded to Leopard.

D S Bullimore

A I personally wouldn't try to run Leopard on anything less than a G5. Not because it's impossible, but because it won't really be much fun.

Time Machine is undoubtedly the single best feature of Leopard - arguably the best feature in any version of OS X. But it's primarily designed to protect you from single file corruption, accidental deletes, or situations where you want to undo past edits to files. If you suffer a complete hard disk failure, as you did before, *Time Machine* is only of limited use. You can't boot from a *Time Machine* backup, so you still have to get a replacement drive, install it and reinstall OS X from the DVD before you can restore your backup files. I would suggest that a more appropriate solution for you is to stick with Tiger and use something like *SuperDuper!* to make a complete bootable backup of your entire hard disk once a day.

If you really want to persist with *Time Machine* on this Mac, you first need to establish whether the backups are happening but not displaying in the *Star Wars* interface, or not happening at all. Force a manual backup by right-clicking the *Time Machine* icon on the menu bar. Does the external disk spring to life? Use *Finder* to browse the disk and see if there are any files stored there. Try deselecting the disk in *Time Machine's* preferences and then turning it back on again. Turn off Spaces and any *Finder* replacements, and repair the external disk. This is troubleshooting buckshot, I'm afraid; we need a bit more information before we can properly diagnose this problem. ●

On the forum

Help and advice from readers



Q After booting up and logging into my six-month-old Macbook Pro running OS X 10.6.3, I received a message saying the clock was set to 00:00, 01.01.2000 and some programs may find this a problem. Also, it could not locate my wireless network. When I re-entered the network details the clock corrected itself.

It's never happened before and when my Wi-Fi is off, or it's away from home, it remembers the time and just informs me that the network is not available. The only software I've added recently is *Microsoft Silverlight* and *Flip4Mac*.

Banjo Joined: 15 Jun 2010 Posts: 2 Location: UK

A Did you let the battery completely drain? That could cause it to lose date and time. The wireless network problem is a worry also, as details like that aren't stored in the battery charge. I hope it's not an impending logic board issue. Could you run **Hardware Tests** to check the board and other hardware components? Hardware Tests are on your original System Install disc - the one that came with your Macbook Pro.

MacOS10 Joined: 20 Oct 2005 Posts: 2241 Location: Manchester, UK

A There is a battery that stores the date and time settings - the CMOS battery. I have had one fail before and had the same symptoms as you have. See how to replace the CMOS, at www.takeitapart.net/archives/macbook-pro/

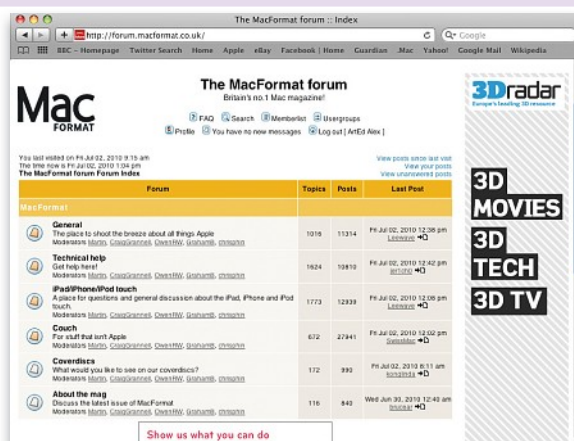
MacManiac1953 Joined: 26 Mar 2008 Posts: 290 Location: East Sussex

A As it's only six months old I wouldn't recommend doing ANYTHING to your MacBook Pro. It's still under warranty, so if you have a problem take it to your nearest Apple Store and get a Genius to check it for you.

big-blue-wolf Joined: 18 Oct 2005 Posts: 6591 Location: Over the rainbow

A I'm with Mr Wolf on this. First, the Mac is under warranty. Let Apple take care of it. Second, a six-month old Mac is unlikely to need its CMOS battery replaced.

Ramaprem Joined: 28 Dec 2004 Posts: 1449 Location: Germany



Join our forum and join in the fun at
<http://forum.macformat.co.uk>

tech radar

132 pages of expert reviews and advice!

NEW!

PHONE

BUYING GUIDE



TOP 100 PHONES RATED

Every essential phone on sale today, tested and reviewed



SMARTPHONE

HTC Desire
the verdict

Why you'll love HTC's best new phone



ANDROID

Google Nexus One

The original and most versatile Android phone



PLUS iPad 3G tested, Samsung Monte tried, Nokia X6 rated, Sony Ericsson Vivaz reviewed and Android 2.2 details revealed

Issue one
on sale
6 July 2010

Available at WHSmith, Sainsbury's, Tesco and selected newsagents. Also available online at www.techradar.com/phonebuying

In this issue...

HARDWARE

Apple iPhone 4 32 GB	84
Apple Mac mini 2.4GHz C2D	86
Fujitsu ScanSnap S1300	88
lomega Screenplay TV Link	88
Apple iPad Wi-Fi + 3G 64GB	89
G-Drive Mobile 500GB HD	90
Creative ZiiSound D5	90
Leica V-LUX 20	91
YuuWaa Go 4GB	92
Crucial C300 RealSSD	92
enigmaTAG fluid	92
Kensington Nightstand	92

GAMES

Half-Life 2	100
Mini Ninjas	101

IPHONE APPS/GAMES

Bistromath	102
SAS Survival Guide	103
FatBooth	103
Sally Park	103
The Package	104
Guitar Hero	104
Warlock of Firetop Mountain	104

SOFTWARE

MarsEdit 3.01	94
Home Inventory 2	94
VMware Fusion 3.1	95
Google Chrome 5.0.375.55	96
Paragon Volume Snapshot	96
Adobe Photoshop Lightroom	97

IPAD APPS/GAMES

Reeder	106
Echofon Pro for Twitter	106
Mirror's Edge	107
Super Monkey Ball: Sakura	107

GROUP TEST

Photo sharing websites	108
------------------------	-----

SHAREWARE

Soulver 2.0.1	98
Echofon 1.0.3	98
Image Tricks 3.0.1	98

"The new Mac mini's most significant component upgrade is its graphics chip"

NEW MAC MINI 2.4GHZ P86

Reviews

● **HARDWARE** ● **SOFTWARE** ● **IPHONE APPS** ● **SHAREWARE** ● **GAMES**



Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

Apple products are becoming increasingly centred on mobile computing, but the new release of the Mac mini shows its desktop range isn't being neglected. Or does it? The new aluminium unibody Mac mini is undoubtedly an amazing piece of engineering and an object of desire, but is it the Mac mini release we've all been hoping for? And with only one standard configuration, priced at a smidgen under £650, is it struggling to find its niche? We bring it under the spotlight on page 86 and deliver our verdict.

The iPhone got a massive revamp this summer, with video calls, a high-resolution screen and perhaps most importantly of all, iOS 4. It's packed with new features, but it's far from cheap. Is it worth upgrading your 3G or 3GS iPhone, or should you wait for a price drop? Find out on page 84. Talking of iPhone OS, sales of the iOS-powered iPad topped 3 million in June, just 80 days after its US release. These are amazing figures when you consider the stock shortages that hampered its launch. We take a look at the Wi-Fi + 3G model on page 89.

>> OUR LOGOS



A product that receives the MacFormat Choice award is the best in its class when reviewed.



Used in our Group Tests, MacFormat Winner indicates the product that we feel stands out.



This logo indicates there are either test versions or files associated with the review on the disc.

RATINGS EXPLAINED: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★★★ Very good ★★★★★★ Good ★★★★★★ Adequate ★★★★★★ Poor

>> MOBILE PHONE

Apple iPhone 4 32GB

£599 Apple's latest iPhone looks the business, but is there a fatal flaw?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Colours: Available in white and black **Capacity:** 16GB/32GB
Mobile and wireless: UMTS/HSDPA/HSUPA/GSM/EDGE/Wi-Fi 802.11b/g/n, Bluetooth 2.1
Talk time: 7 hours on 3G, 14 hours on 2G **Standby:** 300 hours
Sensors: Proximity sensor, 3-axis gyroscope, Accelerometer, ambient light sensor **Weight:** 137g
Dimensions: 115.2x58.6x9.3mm

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Truly amazing screen
- ⊕ Video chat with FaceTime
- ⊕ Fantastic HD video recording
- ⊖ FaceTime is Wi-Fi only
- ⊖ Reception issues
- ⊖ No 64GB option

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A five star product, but we have to dock it a star for the reception issues."

Apple's iPhone 4 features a new, slimmer case, FaceTime video chat, an amazing new 960x640 Retina Display that delivers 326 pixels per inch and a much improved 5-megapixel camera capable of recording HD (720p) video at 30 frames per second. On paper this product should be a hands-down winner, yet there's a fatal flaw - the iPhone 4 has reception issues.

After reading reports from new iPhone 4 owners that their phones lost reception when held in a certain way, this was the first thing we tested when we got our iPhone 4 and, sadly, it's true. It does depend where you are though. In some geographical locations holding the bottom left corner made no difference, in others a healthy five bars were sapped down to none in no time. Apple's response is that there's a flaw in the way all iPhones report signal strength (see StartUp on page 6), reporting stronger signals than there really are in areas of poor reception, and this accounts for the drop offs. Placing the iPhone inside one of Apple's iPhone 4 Bumpers (£25 cases that cover the edges of the phone only) also helps the problem, but having to pay an extra £25 on a £600 phone seems a bit much to us. It remains to be seen what effect Apple's software fix will have. The question then becomes, is this problem big enough to stop you getting an iPhone 4? Let's see what else it offers before we answer that.

Many providers

Your buying options are many and varied when it comes to the iPhone 4. Out of the gate it's available in 16GB and 32GB sizes on almost all mobile networks, on either pay as you go or on a monthly contract, so you can choose the network you prefer. Alternatively, you can buy a SIM-free iPhone 4 from Apple (£599 for the 32GB version and £499 for the 16GB) and sign up for a contract later. It's worth noting that the iPhone 4 uses a



FaceTime (left) enables video chat on a Wi-Fi network between iPhone 4 owners.

smaller Micro-SIM, so you can't just pop your old SIM card in.

On the inside, this phone is based on a new (to the iPhone) processor. Apple's super-fast A4 CPU means the phone feels snappy, especially when switching between apps using the

but since the new Retina Display is so gorgeous, you tend to look at the screen more than the phone. As you'd expect, the new iPhone 4 is thinner than the previous model - 9.3mm compared to 12.3mm. It also feels much less plasticity than the previous

"The pixel density is so high that at a standard view distance there are more pixels per inch here than the human eye can perceive"

new multitasking features of iOS 4, which really shine on this device.

On the outside, the iPhone 4 has been completely redesigned and now comes in either black or white. Gone are the smooth curves of the iPhone 3GS, and the flat back of the iPhone 2G makes a welcome return, so it doesn't wobble when you put it on a table to type. The flat edges do feel a bit sharp and unfriendly in your hand,

generation. We dropped it several times on a hard floor and it just shrugged it off. Volume is controlled by two separate buttons rather than a rocker switch - these are much easier to locate and use when you're fumbling in your pocket.

The most important design change though is the new Retina Display. Apple claims that the pixel density is so high that at a standard viewing

>> QUICK LOOK / The new iPhone 4

Ring/silent

This hand switch can be used to instantly silence your iPhone - good for meetings and cinemas.

Retina Display

960x640 with 326 pixels per inch and a 800:1 contrast ratio - wow!

Runs iOS 4

The iPhone 4 runs iOS 4 software, which includes multitasking and folders.

Home button

A double-tap here now brings up all running apps and iPod controls.

**Camera**

A 5-megapixel still camera that records HD (720p) video at up to 30 frames per second.

LED flash

Finally the iPhone has a flash, so you can shoot in low light conditions.

Volume up/down

New-style volume buttons make the iPhone easier to use than ever.

Mind the gap!

Bridging this gap with a hand appears to reduce the signal strength.

distance there are more pixels per inch here than the eye can perceive. The iPhone 4's pixel density comes out at 326ppi (pixels per inch), meaning each square inch of the display comprises a grid of 326x326 pixels. You notice it most when putting an iPhone 4 and an iPhone 3GS side by side (see box below). The net result is that the iPhone 4's display simply looks fantastic. Games, videos and photos really stand out. The screen is also made up of very strong glass, adding to the durability.

Get some FaceTime

Taking advantage of the new display, FaceTime is the big new functionality here. The iPhone 4 has a front-facing as well as a rear-facing camera, which enables video chat to work. In practice it works really well, although not as perfectly smooth as Apple's ads would have you believe - you do get the occasional jitter. Yet it's a strangely crippled feature: you can only use FaceTime on Wi-Fi and then only with other iPhone 4 users.

However, the good news is that Apple is applying to get the technologies that comprise FaceTime ratified as an open standard. That means it will be able to work with other video chat networks on Macs,

PCs and other phones, hopefully in apps like *Skype* and *iChat*.

There is so much about this phone to love, and it answers all the questions the previous iPhone models posed - a business executive would be as happy to pull an iPhone 4 out of a suit pocket as a BlackBerry, for example. Plus the camera produces fantastic results in all light levels (thanks to an LED flash). The HD video is also equally impressive - for most situations you can now quite happily use an iPhone 4 instead of a dedicated video camera. The iOS 4 software is so much more intuitive

and elegant than Google's Android, and the Windows Phone 7 OS still hasn't got out of the starting blocks. Add to this the fact that the iPhone sits at the centre of an ecosystem of over 200,000 apps and it leaves the others standing.

So, the iPhone 4 keeps Apple way ahead of the competition, but the hard fact is there are still ongoing unresolved issues around the reception. Yet it's a measure of how good a device it is that even this drawback is not enough to stop us recommending an iPhone 4. You won't regret your purchase. **GB**

>> SIDE BY SIDE / iPhone 4 compared to iPhone 3GS

The real stand-out feature of the iPhone 4 (compared to the iPhone 3GS) is its display. 300 pixels per inch is the magic spec you need to boast for the human eye to be unable to distinguish pixels at a normal viewing distance, and the iPhone 4 manages 326 pixels per inch. The iPhone's resolution is now up to 960x640 pixels with an 800:1 contrast ratio (the iPhone 3GS is only 200:1). And the iPhone 4's display also uses IPS (in-plane switching) technology like the iPad, which means the viewing angle is huge compared to the 3GS. Text in particular looks fantastic, making reading iBooks easier.



>> SMALL FORM FACTOR APPLE MAC

Mac mini 2.4GHz Core 2 Duo

£649 Apple's small form factor computer returns with a great new style, but a less welcome price

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
RAM: 2GB **Hard disk:** 320GB,
Ports: 4xUSB 2.0, 1xFW800, SD
card **Optical drive:** 8x SuperDrive
Display: None **Graphics:** NVIDIA
GeForce 320M (integrated)
Dimensions: 3.6x19.7x19.7cm
Weight: 1.37kg

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ HDMI, at last
- ⊕ Thinner, more portable design
- ⊕ Runs almost silently
- ⊕ User accessible memory
- ⊖ Limited innards improvements
- ⊖ Steep pricing

VERDICT

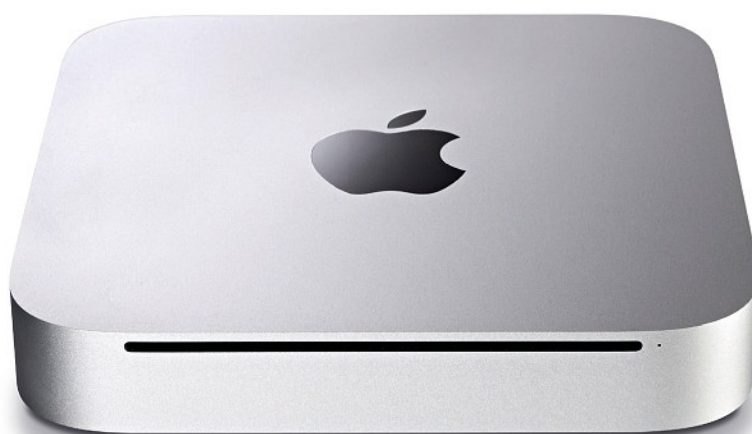
★★★★★

"The Mac mini is a work of engineering genius, but it should be either cheaper or more powerful."

The mid-2010 update of the Mac mini brings some much-needed improvements to Apple's small form factor machine, but it's still lacking in a few key areas. Unlike its white polycarbonate predecessor, it now boasts an aluminium unibody casing. At 19.7cm wide and long it has a slightly bigger footprint than the previous model, but it's substantially thinner and 20% smaller by volume. The transformer is now housed inside the casing, so there's no power brick to lug around – great news for people who need to carry their Mac mini around with them, maybe to use at both work and home.

A removable plastic plate at the foot of the casing gives access to the Mac mini's two SO-DIMM slots, enabling you to upgrade the mini's RAM to a maximum of 8GB. It's only memory you can get at through this plate. Upgrading or replacing the hard drive, for example, still requires a trip to your local Apple retailer. As always, the Mac mini is sold without a keyboard or mouse.

Some significant – and mostly welcome – changes have been made around the back. HDMI video out makes a long-overdue appearance, joining the Mini DisplayPort. Given how many people use Mac minis as media machines, it's surprising it took this long. A HDMI-to-DVI adapter is included to connect your Mac mini



The mid-2010 refresh represents a major update in the Mac mini's design and form factor.

with third-party computer monitors, making the machine dual-monitor ready out of the box. We've also gained an SD card reader, but being on the rear of the computer, it's not ideally positioned. It's a pity it isn't side-mounted, like the MacBook Pro's

an efficient machine all round, with a power supply down to 85W from 110W, and using just 10W when idle, which is a 25% reduction compared to its predecessor.

The previous generation gave us two standard configurations, based

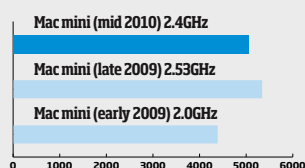
"Some significant – and most welcome – changes have been made around the back. HDMI out makes a long-overdue appearance"

card reader. The new Mac mini's most significant component upgrade is its graphics processor. It now uses an NVIDIA GeForce 320M, the most powerful integrated graphics chipset currently available. It's very energy-efficient too. Indeed, the new mini is

on 2.26GHz and 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processors. The mid-2010 refresh offers only one, which at 2.4GHz, is pitched between the two, although a 2.66GHz is a built-to-order option. Like the low-end configuration from the previous generation, it has 2GB of RAM as standard, but at 320GB, its hard drive matches the capacity of the more expensive model. So graphics aside, the new Mac mini is not so much an upgrade as a merger. Given the asking price of £649 is a mere £14 cheaper than the high-end previous-generation model and has half the RAM, it's disappointing Apple didn't at least stick with its 2.53GHz chip.

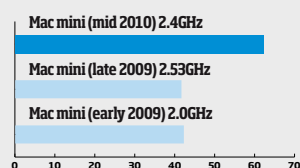
But why use a Core 2 Duo at all? Why not make the switch to the newer, more powerful Core-i series chips? As reported previously in *MacFormat*, an unresolved legal

>> BENCHMARKS / How does the 2010 Mac mini stack up?



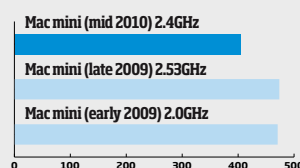
Cinebench (CBs)

Measuring CPU and GPU performance, *Cinebench* reports its results as a single figure. Dual-core performance quoted.



Doom 3 frame rates (FPS)

Tested using *Doom 3*'s 'timedemo 1' routine, set at 1,024x768 with settings at Ultra. Frames per second quoted. Higher is better.



iTunes encoding (Seconds)

A timed test using the latest version of *iTunes*, ripping an audio CD at 128kb/sec AAC, auto sample rate, no VBR.

>> QUICK LOOK / The Mac mini's connectivity options have had an overhaul



Power

The transformer is now built into the Mac, so a standard figure-of-eight cable is all you see of it.

Ethernet/FireWire

A Gigabit Ethernet port is retained; the FireWire 800 port too. FireWire 400 adapter not included.

Video Out

Alongside the Mini DisplayPort, a HDMI port has been added – great news for media nerds.

USB ports

We've lost a USB port – the new Mac mini offers four USB 2.0 outlets; its predecessor had five.

SD card reader

An integrated SD card reader supports the SDXC format (theoretical maximum 2TB load).

dispute prevents Apple integrating an NVIDIA graphics chipset into a Core-i processor, and the Core-i's own integrated Intel HD Graphics is less powerful than the previous Mac mini's GeForce 9400M. So if the new CPU series was used, a discrete GPU would have to be incorporated, pushing up the price. Apple insists the new mini is powerful enough as it is, but a high-end configuration featuring a Core-i processor and discrete graphics would bring all sorts of benefits, such as Advanced Graphics Switching, Turbo Boost and virtual cores. Could Apple be eschewing this route to prevent the Mac mini from encroaching on sales of the iMac?

Frame rates

In our benchmarking tests, the new Mac mini was on a par with its 2.53GHz predecessor in our processor, hard drive and rendering tests, but the new graphics chipset gave *Doom 3* a frame rate increase of around 50%. Interestingly, the new mini handled the game's Ultra Quality setting very well, unlike the similarly-specced MacBook reviewed last issue. We suspect OpenGL revisions introduced in Snow Leopard's 10.6.4 update might have something to do with this. The mini runs almost silently, which is great news for those who use it as a media centre, and even with the processor running at near-maximum for half a day, the casing was barely warm. One test the new Mac mini struggles to pass is the

value-for-money test. At £649 it's not ridiculously overpriced, but it is on the high side of what many are prepared to pay. We can't help wondering if Apple has dropped the near-£500 entry-level model so enthusiasts aren't tempted to upgrade their Mac minis instead of buying an iPad.

media centre Mac we were hoping for. There's still no Blu-ray (even as a custom configuration option), and Apple's *Front Row* software is looking very long in the tooth.

Despite an excellent redesign in step with the rest of the Apple product line, the Mac mini still

“Despite an excellent redesign in step with the rest of the Apple product line, the Mac mini still struggles to find its niche”

The Mac mini is undoubtedly a brilliant piece of engineering. It's amazing how much has been crammed into such a small case, with no compromise on quality. It's ideal for those who need to carry their computer between workspaces, but despite the HDMI output, it's not the

struggles to find its niche. We hope with the next generation, Apple stops worrying about its impact on other, very different products and allows the small form factor Mac to achieve its true potential, both as an entry-level Mac for switchers and a full-on media machine for enthusiasts. **10**

>> TOP 3 FEATURES / What's new for the Mac mini in 2010?



Accessible memory

By opening the panel on the underside, you can boost the RAM to a maximum of 8GB. You still need to take it to an Apple Store to change the hard drive, though.



Slimline form factor

The new mini (bottom) is slightly wider and longer than previously (top), but is considerably thinner. Overall, the aluminium model is 20% smaller by volume.



Integrated transformer

The mini now has an integrated transformer, so its power cable is a simple lead with no bulky power brick. Along with its new size, this makes it more portable than ever.

>> PORTABLE SCANNER

Fujitsu ScanSnap S1300

£250 Small scanner, big performance

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Fujitsu
www.fujitsu.com

REQUIREMENTS

Optical: 600dpi **Mono:** 1200dpi,
ADF: 10 pages **Dimensions:**
28.4x9.9x7.7cm **Weight:** 1.4kg

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Compact and portable
- ⊕ Very fast
- ⊕ USB- or mains-powered
- ⊖ Only 10-sheet ADF

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A superb mix of speed and portability. Ideal for digitising pics on the go."

Fujitsu's ScanSnap S1300 is easy to carry around, but scanning on the move is only one of its talents. It's also very fast. If you regularly scan documents or large photo collections, it could well prove its worth without ever leaving your home or office desk.

The ScanSnap S1300 can be powered through the mains or USB (two ports required). It's small and light enough to fit in your travel bag and use with your notebook at that all-important business conference, and when you have the software installed, it's extremely simple to use. It's straightforward to configure too, and can scan documents directly to your hard drive, email, printer or iPhoto. The bundled *Cardiris OCR*



The ScanSnap S1300 is small enough to fit in your travel bag.

application lets you scan to editable *Word* and *Excel* files, it can create searchable PDFs and its Duplex feature scans both sides of a document with one pass through the scanner. Document sizes from A4 to business cards can be scanned in colour, black-and-white or greyscale.

In our tests, a 20-page, one-sided text document scanned to PDF in three minutes, 32 seconds under

mains power, and just over eight minutes under USB. Ten 15x10cm photos scanned as colour JPEGs in one minute, two seconds and one minute, 12 seconds respectively. Scan quality is also very good, and you can boost quality at the expense of speed if you wish. Our only real gripe is that the document feeder's 10-sheet capacity (fewer if you're scanning photos or thin card) is a little miserly. **10**

>> MEDIA STREAMER

Iomega ScreenPlay TV Link HD Media Player Director Edition

£90 A media streamer of evolved versatility

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Iomega
www.iomega.com

REQUIREMENTS

Interfaces: USB 2.0, Ethernet, Wi-Fi
Video out: HDMI, Composite **OS:** OS 10.4+ **Dimensions:** 13.3x5x0.8cm

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Comprehensive compatibility
- ⊕ Feature-rich
- ⊕ Needs own-brand Wi-Fi dongle
- ⊖ Interface a little spartan

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A feature-rich streamer, but a sometimes-clunky interface lets it down."

You can't fault Iomega's new ScreenPlay TV Link Director Edition media streamer for versatility. It can handle pretty much any video format you can throw at it, including MPEG 1, 2 and 4, WMV, AVI and FLV. It's DivX-certified, and unlike last year's ScreenPlay Pro HD, it supports the H.264 standard as used by the iPod. It can handle HD video up to 1080p, and supports a wide range of audio and image formats too. It also lets you access online media such as Youtube, Flickr and SHOUTcast internet radio, and even run torrent downloads.

Unlike Iomega's ScreenPlay Director HD, the TV Link model doesn't have an internal hard drive. Instead you can connect a USB flash or hard drive to



Iomega's ScreenPlay TV Link HD Media Player is sleek and unobtrusive in your lounge.

one of the device's three USB ports, or stream media over your local network (UPnP and DLNA are supported). Streaming is through Ethernet or Wi-Fi, which requires a separate adaptor. Unfortunately, it has to be Iomega's own ScreenPlay Director 802.11n.

ScreenPlay TV Link streamed our videos with ease. The interface is intuitive and easy to navigate, but

lacks panache and flexibility. It doesn't display album art as you pick through your tunes, and list options are limited to alphabetical order. It can be slow to respond to your inputs too.

One day, someone will release a media streamer with the finesse of Apple TV and the versatility of Iomega's ScreenPlay TV Link or Western Digital's WDTV. Until then, this is as good as any. **10**



The iPad Wi-Fi + 3G truly liberates. Now you can get online at speed wherever you can pick up a signal.

>> TABLET COMPUTER

Apple iPad Wi-Fi + 3G 64GB



£699 (plus contract) Is the Wi-Fi + 3G version of the iPad worth the higher asking price?

Sure, when it comes to buying an iPad there are three different memory sizes on offer, but the big choice is really between getting a Wi-Fi or a Wi-Fi + 3G iPad. With a 3G iPad you can access the internet wherever you can get a mobile signal, but you're immediately adding £100 to the price, and you'll also need to pay for your 3G data access.

The iPad Wi-Fi + 3G is sold unlocked: you buy the device first, then get a micro-SIM card (an ordinary SIM card is too big to fit) from Apple or a carrier. Currently you can get a 3G contract from either 3, O2, Orange or Vodafone. Their packages are all slightly different, but 3 is currently the cheapest monthly contract at £7.50 for 1GB of data on a rolling contract (so you can cancel at any

time). O2 and Orange offer day rates from £2. After our first week with the iPad Wi-Fi + 3G we'd used less than 50MB of data, so 1GB should easily cover most people's monthly needs.

Visually, the only thing to identify a 3G-enabled iPad is the black stripe that runs along the top of the device, but inside you also get an Assisted GPS chip so the iPad can determine its location quicker than standard GPS can in apps such as *Maps*, and in places where the Wi-Fi-only iPad simply won't be able to.

"You get an Assisted GPS chip so the iPad can determine its location quicker than standard GPS can"

In use, the iPad switches seamlessly between Wi-Fi, when available, and 3G, when not. As soon as you're out of range of a hotspot, the 3G kicks in and takes over, which is exactly how you want it to behave. There's no lag or crashes. In true Apple style, it just works. Like the iPhone, if the iPad can't get a 3G connection it will step down to EDGE and GPRS, so you'll at least get some sort of connection, even if it's not broadband speed.

A 3G connection turns the iPad into the true mobile Internet device it was always meant to be. The data plans are reasonable, and the convenience of getting online anywhere you can pick up a signal is a joy. The only downside is that it doesn't have the amazing display of the new iPhone 4, or FaceTime. **GB**

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: 1GHz Apple A4 chip
Display: 9.7-inch 1024x768
Wireless: UMTS/HSDPA, GSM/EDGE, Data only, Wi-Fi (802.11 a/b/g/n), Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR technology

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Online more often
- ⊕ GPS inside
- ⊖ £100 more expensive
- ⊖ No camera

VERDICT

★★★★★

"This is the iPad as it was meant to be, leaving you free to roam as you please."

>> PORTABLE HARD DRIVE

G-Technology G-Drive Mobile 500GB

£100 No prizes for guessing its design inspiration

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: G-Technology
www.g-technology.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Capacity: 500GB **Form factor:** 2.5-inch **Interface:** USB 2.0
Dimensions: 12.7x8.3x1.9cm

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Custom desktop icon
- ⊕ Pre-formatted for Mac
- ⊖ Too expensive
- ⊖ Heavier than most drives

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Fine if you value design consistency, but nothing special in its own right."

This portable hard drive from Hitachi subsidiary G-Technology takes a 'no-frills' approach to mobile storage. It's USB 2.0 only, and offers no fancy features like capacity gauges or one-touch backup, no additional software or turbo drivers, and its only bundled accessory is a USB cable. So given it costs £100, and you can get similarly specced portable drives for around £70, what does it do to justify its price tag?

In our tests, the G-Drive Mobile achieved an average random read speed of 9.4MB/s, and an average random write of 13.42MB/s, which is about what you'd expect for a portable USB drive. Not too shabby, but nothing special. If matching styles

are your thing, it's designed to resemble the white polycarbonate MacBook, though it looks more like the previous generation than the current release. Build quality is average, with a plastic lid atop a metal tray, and at 250g it's a bit heavier than most portable drives. Its attractive custom desktop icon is neat, though. G-Drive Mobile is pre-formatted using Apple's Mac OS Extended (Journaled) format, but then again, you can

reformat a drive yourself in the time it takes to make a cup of tea.

There's nothing much wrong with G-Technology's G-Drive Mobile 500GB, but then there's nothing much to make it stand out from the crowd either. White MacBook owners who go to great lengths to make sure their computer equipment matches might find it worth the extra money, but everyone else would do well to look elsewhere. **IO**



It's styled to match the MacBook, but is quite at home with any Mac.

>> SPEAKER SET

Creative ZiiSound D5

£280 Quality sound in a Bluetooth speaker set?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Creative Technology
<http://uk.creative.com>

SPECIFICATIONS

Drivers: Two 2.75-inch bass ports
Frequency: 2.4GHz **Inputs:** Aux-in, Bluetooth **Dimensions:** 42.5x11x9cm

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Solid Bluetooth connection
- ⊕ Very impressive sound
- ⊕ Sleek and stylish
- ⊖ Not great at shaping the sound

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A quality device that combines solid Bluetooth and superb audio."

Creative Technology's ZiiSound D5 takes a new look at the iPod speaker set. Instead of plugging your device directly into a dock, it comes supplied with a Bluetooth transmitter that fits any Apple device with a dock connector, enabling you to wirelessly transmit your sounds up to 10 metres.

With your iPhone, iPod or iPad in your hand instead of your speaker dock, you have much more control over your music than a standard speaker remote could afford. You can also pair the D5 with your Mac (or just about any Bluetooth-enabled device), and there's a 3.5mm aux-in port for connecting non-Bluetooth audio players. Your iPod or iPhone can also be docked in the unit for charging.

There's little to disturb the ZiiSound D5's sleek good looks.

The Creative ZiiSound D5 is very stylish, boasting a sleek, black exterior unencumbered by messy controls. Even the volume is set using a touch-sensitive slider. It offers excellent sound too, with a rear-facing bass port boosting the lower end and twin 2.75-inch full frequency drivers giving a rich, detailed audio that's full of character.

The Bluetooth connection never lets you down, and it has enough

volume to fill a decent-sized room without significant distortion. It's not quite as good at shaping the sound, however. To an extent this is to be expected from a single-unit set, but Altec Lansing's recent releases manage this a lot better. But to be fair, this is a minor moan. The ZiiSound D5 combines good looks with great audio, and its excellent Bluetooth system gives you full control over your sounds. **IO**





As well as being great for travellers, the built-in GPS feature makes archiving easy. Handy for Google Earth too.

Photography by Jesse Wild

>>DIGITAL COMPACT CAMERA

Leica V-LUX 20

£495 A chic, high-quality 12.1-megapixel compact camera with 12x zoom and built-in GPS tagging

The new Leica V-LUX 20's expensive-looking, minimalist-styled metal body houses an impressive set of specifications, its 12x optical zoom being the biggest boast. The Leica DC-VARIO-ELMAR 4.1-49.2 MM F/3.3-4.9 wide-angle lens offers an equivalent of 25-300mm focal range, which makes it ideal for all situations, and it performs superbly across the range with no loss of quality at the super-telephoto end.

The second headline feature of the V-LUX 20 is its built-in GPS facility, which works incredibly well, recording the exact geographic coordinates of where you took each photo in the Exif data, along with the local time (that it sets for you) at which you took the shot. It can show the name of the town, area and landmarks too – it

covers 500,000 points of interest, in 73 different countries.

Although the camera records with up to 12.1-megapixel resolution, it's actually equipped with a 14.5-megapixel CCD sensor, which affords three aspect ratios: 4:3, 3:2 or 16:9; all enable the lens set from 25mm to 300mm. It has a 3-inch LCD display, which is bright and sharp, making composing shots easier.

The camera offers a full set of manual controls and three different settings that enable you to customise

"The lens performs superbly across the range with no loss of quality at the super-telephoto end"

the camera to your own preferences. There are, of course, fully automatic modes and a whole host of useful scene modes. Other features include face detection (up to 15 faces) and image stabilisation, which works very well indeed.

Image quality is superb, noise is handled well, images are sharp and colours bright and punchy, but not over-saturated. A copy of *Adobe Photoshop Elements 8* (worth £77) comes free with the Leica V LUX 20 too, so your editing experience will be top-notch.

You can also record HD movies with the V-LUX 20. There's even a dedicated movie record button on the back of the camera. Movie quality is good and we like the way all the automatic features work with moving as well as still images. **RD**

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: G-Technology
www.g-technology.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 12.1MP **Lens:** Leica DC-VARIO-ELMAR 4.1-49.2 MM F/3.3-4.9 **Format:** JPEG **Weight:** 218g
Memory card: SD, SDHC, SDXC
Dimensions: 103x62x33

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Powerful 12x optical zoom
- ⊕ Useful built-in GPS tagging
- ⊕ Full manual controls
- ⊖ Expensive

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Thanks to its massive focal range, this is a truly versatile compact camera."



>> USB FLASH DRIVE

YuuWaa Go 4GB

£15 www.yuuwaa.com

01 Along with a 4GB flash drive and lanyard, the YuuWaa Go gives you 20GB of online storage accessed using a web browser. Logging in is automatic if your flash drive is connected, or you can use a password if it isn't. Files stored online can be shared, and a backup syncs your drive's files with the cloud. It still needs a little polish: when sharing files, email notifications are in French, and in our tests, files of 1GB and above failed to copy to the cloud at all. Online storage is only bundled for six months, after which it costs £1.80 a month. **IO**

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A very promising drive, but definitely a work in progress on the Mac."

>> 256GB SSD

Crucial C300 RealSSD

£579 www.crucial.com/uk

02 In the next couple of years, it's likely that we'll see a shift from traditional hard disks to solid-state drives; they're less prone to failure, consume less power and are faster. They are, however, expensive, as this 2.5-inch drive shows. Its performance is little better – and in some tests, slightly worse – than Crucial's marginally cheaper M225 range. Even new Macs only have a 3GB/sec SATA port, so they can't take advantage of the C300's 6GB/sec SATA interface. We did try fitting a SATA 6GB/sec card in a Mac Pro, but performance declined. **CP**

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A good drive, but little better performance than Crucial's M225 range."

>> SECURITY UTILITY

enigmaTAG fluid

£30 www.enigmatag.com

03 Each bottle of enigmaTAG has a unique combination of micro-particles visible under ultraviolet light. By dabbing a spot on objects and registering your pack's code online, it gives your property an indelible fingerprint, which police can identify using special scanners. A bottle is good for 120 applications. Under normal light it's unobtrusive but far from invisible, so it's best to mark your devices somewhere discreet. enigmaTAG is endorsed (and in some areas, distributed) by the police. Each bottle comes with a free UV flashlight. **IO**

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A simple security solution that could prove invaluable if your Macs are stolen."

>> IPHONE CHARGER

Kensington Nightstand

£17 www.kensington.com

04 With Nightstand and Kensington's free *Rise&Shine* app from the iTunes Store, you can turn your iPhone or iPod touch into a digital clock and weather centre. The time is displayed in a variety of styles, and you can use the Nightstand in both landscape and portrait modes. The device itself offers little cause for complaint, but the *Rise&Shine* app could be more versatile and needs a bit of work. The brightness setting mutes the graphics instead of dimming the screen, you can't set it to turn itself off, and it really could do with an integrated alarm. **IO**

VERDICT

★★★★★

"With a little more work on the application, this stand could be very useful."

SUBSCRIBE

>> INTERNATIONAL SAVINGS AND WELCOME GIFT

Subscribe to MacFormat and get yourself a MacFormat-branded USB flash drive filled with 13 back issues as PDFs!

Our newly updated MacFormat-branded USB provides you with content from 13 back issues, meaning you'll never again have to hunt through old magazines looking for that must-read article. Or simply use it for storing your own files!

>> WHY SUBSCRIBE?

- Get every issue delivered to your home or workplace, wherever you are in the world!
- Get 13 issues a year of troubleshooting advice and reviews of all the latest Apple kit
- Never miss an issue!
- Get exclusive access to our subs-only area on the MacFormat website, giving you unlimited access to the MacFormat archive



>> MACFORMAT PRICES**

Europe pay £79.20 Rest of world pay £90

www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/MACP12

or call (+44) (0) 1604 251 045 quoting code MACP12

Contact centre opening times are: 0800 to 2130 weekdays,
0800 to 1600 on Saturdays

From the USA or Canada?

USA & Canada pay \$129.99 saving 37%

www.imsnews.com/macformat-a037

or call our hotline TOLL FREE on 1-800 428 3003
quoting code a037

Terms and Conditions **ROW do save money, but have no set newsstand price therefore we can't advertise amount saved. UK, EU & ROW pay GBP. USA & Canada pay USD. Minimum subscription term is 12 months. Your subscription will start with the next available issue. You will receive 13 issues of MacFormat a year. If at any time during the next 60 days you are dissatisfied in any way, please notify us in writing and we will refund all unmailed items. Offer ends 30th September 2010.

>> BLOG EDITING TOOL

MarsEdit 3.01

\$40 (around £28) Create blog posts offline

CONTACTS

Developer: Red Sweater Software
www.red-sweater.com/marsedit

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6

PROS & CONS

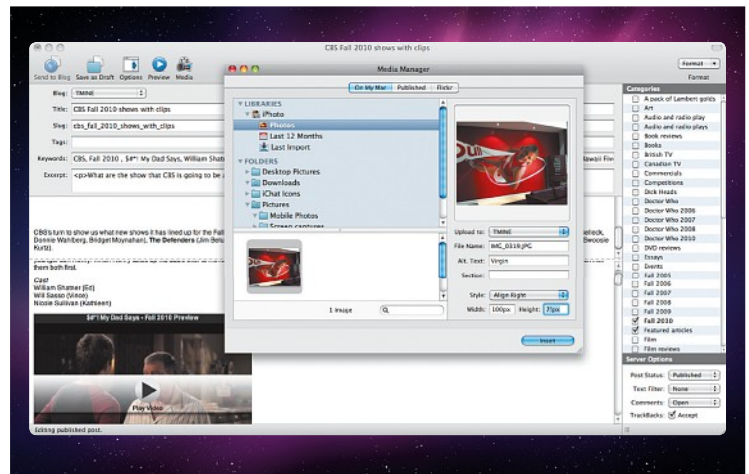
- ⊕ New rich text editor
- ⊕ Very powerful feature set
- ⊕ Supports many blog features
- ⊖ Image handling still clunky

VERDICT

★★★★★
 "An excellent blogging tool that hasn't quite hit all its targets yet."

Even the most advanced blog's web browser interface suffers from problems: you need internet access to use it; it doesn't have the responsiveness or features of desktop software; and it doesn't have a true WYSIWYG editing system. *MarsEdit 3.0* is one of the best desktop tools around for filling these gaps. It can download posts from most blog systems, including Blogger, WordPress and Movable Type. You can then compose and edit posts using the new built-in, syntax-highlighting HTML or rich-text editors, see what they'll look like using a preview based on your blog's template, then upload them when you're ready.

If you want to include pictures from your *iPhoto*, *Aperture* or *Lightroom* libraries, your hard drive or Flickr, *MarsEdit* lets you add them to an



MarsEdit has powerful blog-editing features, and lets you cache all your entries offline.

entry, resize them and upload them to your blog. You can also use templates for blog entries and presets for photo uploads to speed up operations.

The competition between *MarsEdit* and *ecto*, its nearest competitor, is a close-run thing. Despite its new features, *MarsEdit* is still faster. Its rich text editor is (slightly) less buggy

and more accurate, and its support for WordPress's custom and slug fields is better. However, it lacks *ecto*'s Amazon integration, its interface is less clear, and its image uploader is a lot clunkier and less feature-packed.

However, both are great tools for the serious blogger, so it comes down to personal preference. **RB**

>> INVENTORY APPLICATION

Home Inventory 2

\$35 (around £24) Keep track of possessions

CONTACTS

Developer: Binary Formations, LLC
<http://binaryformations.com>

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5 or later

PROS & CONS

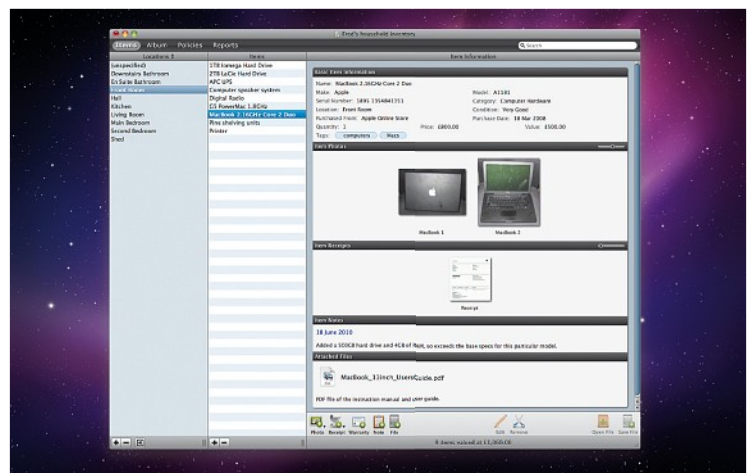
- ⊕ User friendly
- ⊕ Comprehensive
- ⊕ Back up to MobileMe
- ⊖ Only as good as its user

VERDICT

★★★★★
 "Spectacularly user-friendly, but only useful if you keep it up to date."

There's little more stressful than a house fire or burglary. As if losing your possessions wasn't bad enough, you then have to work out what's been taken or destroyed for the insurance claim, and possibly file a police report. *Home Inventory 2* can't extinguish the flames or keep the thieves at bay, but if you keep it up to date, it can make the inevitable form-filling so much easier.

With *Home Inventory 2* you can log important information about your home's key possessions, including their make, serial number, purchase price and estimated current value. You can attach photos of the item to this record, along with a scan of your receipt, warranty information, notes and digital files such as PDF manuals. Recorded items can be displayed



Store all sorts of pertinent information about your possessions in Home Inventory 2.

according to customisable product types or locations, and your home inventory database can be exported as a CSV file and backed up to a local drive or your MobileMe account – a home inventory database isn't much use for insurance if your computer was stolen or destroyed. Barcode scanning is planned for a future

update, but stock photos drawn from online databases aren't welcomed by insurance companies, who regard photos of the actual item in a home environment as a proof of ownership.

Home Inventory 2 is an excellently designed piece of software. As long as you have the self-discipline to keep it up to date, it's a boon. **IO**

>> VIRTUALISATION SOFTWARE

VMware Fusion 3.1

\$80 (£57), upgrade \$40 (£29) Can Fusion up the ante when it comes to speed?

With the eternal punch-up between virtualisation apps *VMware Fusion* and *Parallels Desktop* in relative abeyance, *Fusion* re-enters the ring slightly fleet of foot, this latest update largely intended to boost the application's performance. *VMware's* website throws exciting figures around with merry abandon: "35% better end-to-end application performance [...] according to *WorldBench 6*," and "up to 5X better 3D graphics performance".

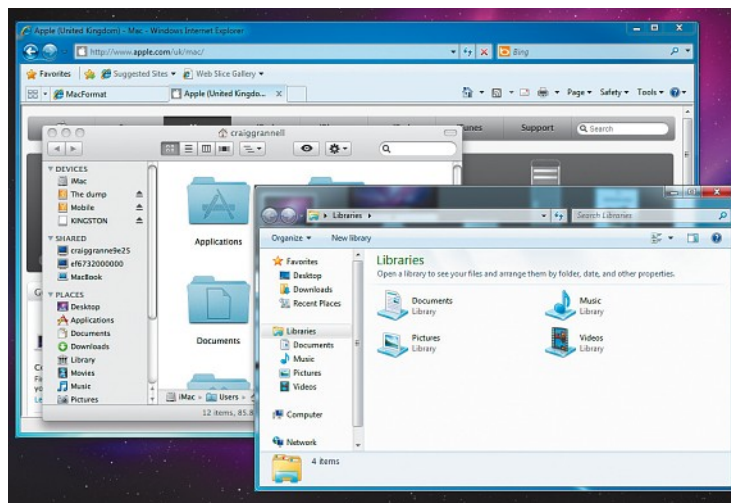
Back down to earth

Unfortunately, our own tests dulled the buzz *VMware's* numbers provided. On the positive side, *VMware Fusion 3.1* definitely and noticeably improves performance across the board. Virtual machine suspension and Microsoft's Aero graphics under Windows 7 get particularly obvious boosts, and graphics in 3D games are often rendered more satisfactorily. However, the app still regularly remains slower than its rival (especially when resuming suspended machines); and while 3D games might look better than in previous versions of *Fusion*, our perhaps slightly ambitious aim of

"Our perhaps slightly ambitious aim of getting the likes of Race Driver: Grid to run resulted in something akin to stop-motion animation"

getting the likes of *Race Driver: Grid* to run resulted in something more akin to stop-motion animation than fluid gaming on our test Mac. Simpler and slower games fared better, but until something magical happens to virtual machines, anyone wanting to play PC games should definitely stick to Boot Camp.

The other improvements to *Fusion* in this update are mostly a mix of workflow-oriented changes and technological achievements. *Fusion's* already impressive USB device support is further refined with EasyConnect, which pops up a user-



Strange visual things continue to happen in Fusion when you mix OS X and Windows Aero.

friendly dialog box when you plug something into your Mac, enabling you to assign it to your Mac or a virtual machine on a temporary or permanent basis. Elsewhere, migration is faster, and Unity (*Fusion's* name for the technology that enables you to mingle Mac OS X and Windows windows) works better with Mac OS X – *Exposé* support is particularly impressive. That said, full integration with the Mac remains a pipe dream, since application-hiding is

still broken (either every Windows app hides or none do), while 'tearing' and general visual oddness remains evident when moving windows, especially when using translucent Aero windows. On the more 'technical' side, there's now scope for larger virtual machines, with support for 2TB disks and eight-way symmetric multiprocessing. *Fusion 3.1* also brings support for various recent flavours of Linux and Ubuntu.

Virtual face-off

Back in *MacFormat* issue 216, our head-to-head review of *Parallels*

Desktop and *VMware Fusion* put the applications at a dead heat, the former being faster but the latter offering a superior user experience. With this latest update, which we sanity-checked against the latest *Parallels Desktop*, little has changed. *Fusion 3.1's* improvements mean it now perhaps edges ahead, but the update still isn't enough to deliver a knockout blow.

To that end, if you're running a previous version of *Fusion*, upgrade; if you're running *Parallels Desktop 5*, stick with what you've got; and if you have neither and need to choose a virtualisation application, we recommend *Fusion*, but by the slimmest of margins. **CG**

CONTACTS

Developer: VMware
http://vmware.com/products/fusion

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel **RAM:** 1GB (2GB recommended) **OS:** Mac OS X 10.5.8+ (Mac OS X 10.6.3+ recommended)
Disk space: 700MB for VMware Fusion and 5GB+ per virtual machine

PROS & CONS

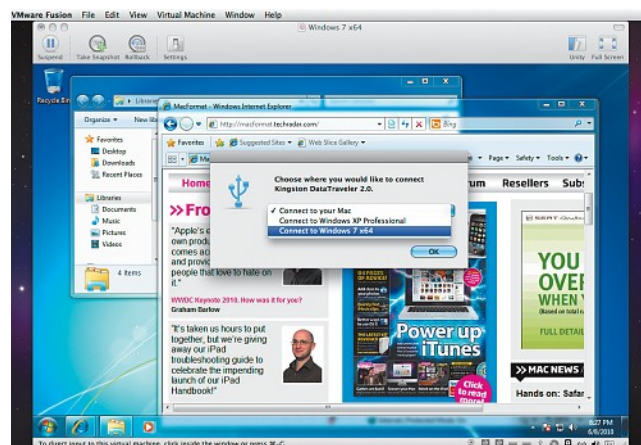
- ⊕ Improved speed
- ⊕ Better graphics performance
- ⊕ Still robust and stable
- ⊕ User-friendly throughout
- ⊖ Imperfect Mac OS X integration
- ⊖ *Parallels* is regularly faster

VERDICT

★★★★★

"The best virtual machine experience on the Mac gets a speed boost."

Fusion remains extremely user-friendly when it comes to assigning USB devices to your machines.



>> WEB BROWSER

Google Chrome 5.0.375.55

FREE How does it compare to rival browsers?

CONTACTS

Developer: Google
www.google.com/chrome

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel Mac
OS: OS X 10.5+

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Fast and efficient
- ⊕ Extensible via plug-ins
- ⊕ Individual tab processes
- ⊖ Some poor interface design

VERDICT

★★★★★
"Despite dodgy interface decisions, Google Chrome is the Mac's best browser."

Chrome for the Mac has lost its beta label, Google considering it ripe for primetime. In market-share terms, the browser has also sped past *Safari*, largely due to its uptake on Windows. But how does the app fare on the Mac?

The answer is: very well. In fact, with one exception, *Chrome* hits a home run in every major area of importance for a web browser. First and foremost, it's stable. Total crashes are incredibly rare, because each tab is a separate process. If a tab crashes, the rest soldier on. The browser is also standards-compliant and very fast, since it uses WebKit – the same core as *Safari*.

Chrome is extensible, with many useful plug-ins available, and it's



Chrome is stable and extensible - in this grab, we're running FlashBlock.

simple to use. The interface is intuitive and efficient, notably the combined address and search bar (something we wish Apple would steal). The browser's ability to define keyword shortcuts for search engines is another plus over *Safari*.

Although more Mac-like than *Firefox*, *Chrome* nonetheless has

some poor interface elements, such as its skinny, hard-to-hit title bar, tabs that are just a few pixels wide when many are open, and a status bar that can't be made permanent and crops the address of the link you're hovering over. But the good far outweighs the bad in *Chrome*, to the point that it's now the Mac's best browser. **CG**

>> BACKUP SOFTWARE

Paragon Volume Snapshot for OS X

\$40 (£27.50) Back up while you work

CONTACTS

Developer: Paragon Software
www.paragon-software.com/home

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.4.6+ **Processor:** x86 or PowerPC G4 **RAM:** 128MB
Other: External storage system

PROS & CONS

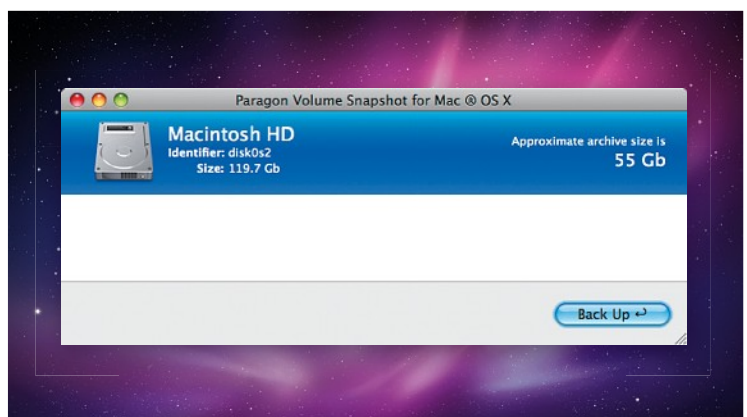
- ⊕ Can back up a disk, even in use
- ⊕ Back up to mountable volumes
- ⊖ No incremental backups
- ⊖ High price

VERDICT

★★★★★
"Does what it claims in terms of backup, but little more, plus it's expensive."

Most safety-conscious people use *Time Machine* or other backup software. However, in the event of a full hard drive crash, getting up and running using *Time Machine* can be time consuming – you'll need to restore OS X first, then use *Time Machine* to restore the rest, since *Time Machine* can't access system and other files in use during backups. Alternative backup programs, such as *Carbon Copy Cloner*, can create copies of your entire hard drive, but require that you boot from another drive.

Paragon's Volume Snapshot for OS X claims to be the first Mac software to use snapshot technology to create a fully bootable image of your hard drive, even when you're running



Volume Partition has a simple interface with only one job - backing up your hard drive.

applications and software. It will create a snapshot of each file on your hard drive and copy that to a DMG file that your system recovery DVD can use to restore your drive. It also claims it can do so at up to 1GB per minute.

Our first experience with *Volume Snapshot* wasn't pretty: the installer hard-froze OS X. However, once installed, it was very simple to use and created a bootable image of the

hard drive. The 1GB/minute speed advertised was nothing like what we got – it took two hours to create a 42GB backup of 60GB of data.

But that's it. It doesn't have any scheduling or incremental backup functions, or any of the other facilities of *Time Machine* and other tools. Given the options available in other, cheaper tools, this shouldn't really be a first choice for backups. **RB**

>>PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKFLOW SOFTWARE

Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 3

£233, £75 (upgrade) Are its lightning-fast workflow and editing tools worth the price?

Photographers on the Mac could be forgiven for feeling a little spoilt for choice at the moment. No sooner has *Aperture 3* been released and awarded four and a half stars in *MacFormat* (issue 220), than Adobe's workflow software, *Lightroom 3*, goes gold and presents users with a difficult choice.

The core concept of *Lightroom* is similar to *Aperture*'s: manage your photographic workflow from the moment you plug in your camera to exporting your finished images to the web or print. As with *Aperture*, the location of your images on your hard disk is unimportant – once pictures are copied you can arrange them into custom collections, or set up smart collections that automatically draw files into them if they meet certain criteria. *Lightroom*'s main advantage is its speed – working with huge libraries of files is fast and efficient.

Raw power

Lightroom's image processing engine is based on Adobe's *Camera Raw*, and the new version has an improved noise reduction tool. In previous versions of *Lightroom*, reducing noise meant walking a fine line between

"Lightroom's image processing engine is based on Adobe's Camera Raw, and the new version has improved noise reduction"

cutting grain and retaining detail: in the new version, that fine line has been thickened, enabling you to cut more noise while maintaining sharpness. A new film grain feature has also been added, enabling you to replace random speckles of noise with a pleasing film-like effect. Other features help *Lightroom* retain the editing edge against *Aperture*, such as the lens profile tool. This enables you to select the lens you used to take a shot and have your images automatically corrected. So if you have a lens that produces chromatic aberration, vignetting or barrel



Lightroom's image editing engine has been refined and is now more powerful than ever.

distortion, *Lightroom* can attempt to correct automatically. Unsurprisingly for software aimed at committed amateurs or professionals, expensive Canon and Nikon lenses get the best coverage, although a free tool on Adobe's website should see more lens profiles released over time. *Lightroom* still leads the way with tools such as its graduated filter.

Also new to this version is a feature *Aperture* has had since version 2 – tethering. If you have a supported Canon or Nikon camera (this includes

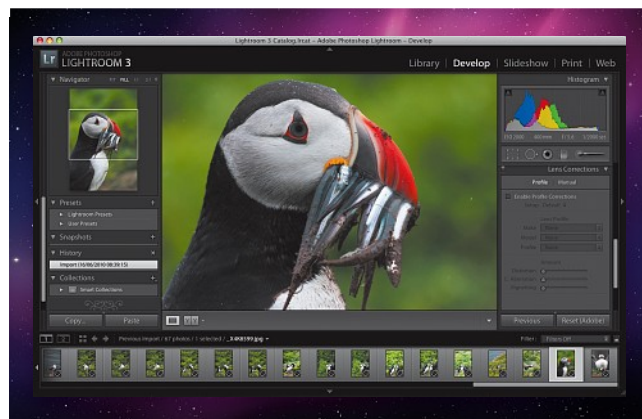
most recent mid-range and above models), you can shoot straight into a *Lightroom* studio session – useful for studio-bound photographers. It works well: a raw file took a little under five seconds to migrate from our DSLR into *Lightroom* after clicking the capture button.

The slideshow feature has a fresh coat of paint: for the first time you can output a finished slideshow to an H.264 MP4 file. However, although you can add your own soundtrack, *Lightroom 3*'s slideshow capabilities pale in comparison to *Aperture*'s. *Lightroom* will now recognise video

files from your DSLR, for instance, but you can't run them into a slideshow. There's also less control over transitions – the fade being the only option available. *Aperture*'s ability to create stunningly finished photo books remains unchallenged.

Professional sheen

That's not the only place *Lightroom* lags – *Aperture* leads the way for consumer-friendly touches such as face-recognition and geo-tagging. But *Lightroom* offers a more powerful suite of editing tools, and its new noise-reduction tools are second-to-none. If you're a professional it comes highly recommended, despite costing around £60 more than *Aperture*. It's also a no-brainer upgrade for existing *Lightroom* users at £75. **DS**



CONTACTS

Developer: Adobe
www.adobe.co.uk

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5 or later Processor:
Intel-based Mac RAM: 2GB
Hard disk space: 1GB

PROS & CONS

- + Deals with big libraries fast
- + Powerful editing tools
- + Introduces tethered shooting
- + Excellent image quality
- + Expensive compared to *Aperture*
- Restricted slideshow capabilities

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A top-notch piece of software and a definite improvement on previous versions. Pros will love it."

Editing your images is fast and reliable – useful if you're working your way through a huge shoot.

>> NOTEPAD/CALCULATOR HYBRID

Soulver 2.0.1



\$25 (£17) A brilliant, user-friendly app for quick calculations

CONTACTS

Developer: Acqualia
<http://acqualia.com/solver>

REQUIREMENTS

OS X 10.5 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ A brilliant idea
- ⊕ Usable, friendly and efficient
- ⊕ Styling and formatting options
- ⊕ Plentiful export options

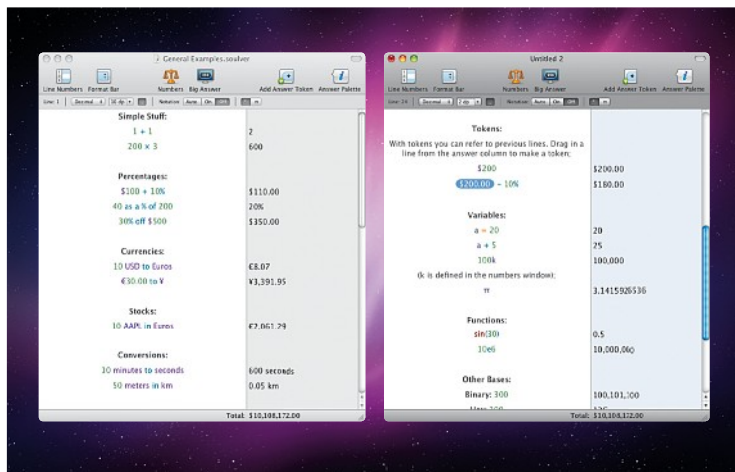
VERDICT

★★★★★

"The calculator done right. Try Soulver and you'll never go back."

Developers will often make applications to resemble real-world items; the benefit of which is recognition. Take, for example, the calculator – everyone knows how to use one, and so Mac calculators look like the one you'd find on your desk. *Solver* rips up this rulebook and starts again.

A *Solver* window has two columns. On the left, you write stuff – sums, currency conversions, little notes to yourself. On the right are the results. This workflow model means you can give your calculations context, and *Solver* intelligently figures out what you want to calculate: write '£2.50 lunch x 5' and *Solver* provides the answer: '£12.50'; paste a list of item/price pairs from an email and *Solver* will instantly recognise the numbers and output a total in the blink of an eye.



Solver enables you to give your calculations context, and is intelligent enough to understand.

The app's like an advanced calculator crossed with a friendly basic spreadsheet that understands plain English, rather than demanding arcane commands. There really is

nothing to dislike about *Solver*, and while you might question spending £17 on a weird calculator, give it 10 minutes' use and you'll wonder how you ever did without it. **CG**

>> TWITTER CLIENT

Echofon 1.0.3

Free/\$20 (£14) <http://echofon.com>



Twitter is a great service, because it doesn't tie you to any one piece of

software. Armed with your username and password, you can leap to another Twitter client in seconds. Ever since *Tweetie for Mac*'s development ground to a halt, we've been on the hunt for a replacement, and we've found one in *Echofon*.

For the 'light' Twitter user, *Echofon*'s simple, intuitive interface will appeal. Setup is straightforward, and it's obvious how to use everything. For the hardcore, *Echofon* supports multiple accounts, offers configurable notifications and can sync with the iPhone version. There are also single-key

shortcuts to important commands, and you can highlight useful words in a feed.

There are a few drawbacks to *Echofon*. The area for writing messages is too small, and it's geared to writing a single tweet at a time. Also, the lack of conversation flow for direct messages is disappointing. However, *Echofon* is otherwise a usable, impressive Twitter client. Note that the \$20 purchase price merely removes infrequent and surprisingly relevant ads that pop up in your feed. **CG**

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Quite possibly the best Twitter client currently available for the Mac."

>> IMAGE FILTER SUITE

Image Tricks 3.0.1

Free/\$20 (£14) <http://bit.ly/buby7U>



Mac OS X includes a slew of image effects 'under the hood'. Although digital filters have a bad reputation, due to people going crazy with budget image editors, they can add life to tired images, or enable you to get creative. And while certain effects within *Image Tricks* are a little too zany, some are great for making subtle adjustments to photos, or for aping film stock or natural media. *Image Tricks* also includes generators, which enable you to create visual effects from scratch, such as plasma.

In terms of filter application, few Mac users will have trouble – *Image Tricks* is easy to use, with sliders and text fields for

adjusting values, and large icons for actions. Just drag a photo to the workspace, click an effect, adjust settings and click Apply. Multiple filters can be applied, and you can undo multiple actions, but you cannot remove specific effects from within the effects chain. You'll also notice when using the app that some options are marked 'pro'. These are unlocked with a \$20 fee, but you can still preview how your image would look. The rating we're giving here is for the free version of *Image Tricks*. **CG**

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A decent application for unleashing the power of OS X's built-in filters."



Issue 217
February 2010

Sort photos using GPS
Investigating Apple TV 3.0
Solid-state drive group test
Customise Mac OS X

On the disc
AppDelete 2.2.3, Mac-HaBu
Bronze 10.3.2 and more



Issue 218
March 2010

Never lose a file again!
Add other operating systems
Organise social networking
Top 10 iPhone apps

On the disc
Archive 5.5.1, Fresh 1.2.2,
NTFS for Mac 6.5 Express



Issue 219
April 2010

Say hello to iPad
40 ways to improve a Mac
Cut the cost of buying a Mac
Stylise your snaps

On the disc
Curator 1.3, Captain FTP,
Fun Booth 1 and more



Issue 220
May 2010

iWork: the ultimate guide
Do more in Snow Leopard
Aperture 3 reviewed
Macworld expo: the verdict

On the disc
iSoftPhone 2.7, R10Cipher 2,
Tidy Up! 1.4.11 and more



Issue 221
June 2010

Get more done on your Mac
Five features of Adobe CSS
iPad Wi-Fi model reviewed
Get a free 3D desktop

On the disc
File Sheriff 1.4, ArtRage 2.5,
Cake Shop 1 and more



Issue 222
Summer 2010

Power up iTunes
20 Mac, iPad & iPhone tricks
iWork for iPad reviewed
Why games are Mac bound

On the disc
TwitMenulet 6, RapidCart 1,
Sudoku Epic 4.5 and more

Back issues

Want to order a back issue of MacFormat? Hurry – stock is limited!

You've only just missed...

Issue 223 / July 2010

40 cool iLife features

Features you don't use, but should!

Plus...

Use Steam to get gaming on your Mac
First steps photo editing in Aperture
iPad – the new creative arts medium
All your Mac questions answered
How to pack for a Mac getaway
iPhone earbuds group test

On the disc

Disk Order 2.5.1, iCompta 3.3.6,
Poker Manager 2, top shareware and more



Why not also try these...



Don't miss our special issues, but hurry - limited stocks available!

MacFormat Presents brings the expertise and experience of MacFormat's writers to cover a single subject in its entirety. You can buy all of these special issues online at www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/macformatpresents.

To order back issues telephone +44 (0)870 837 4773
To buy online or to subscribe to MacFormat,
visit www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk

>>FIRST-PERSON SHOOTER

Half-Life 2



£7 Valve's science-fiction shooter still has the power to amaze

CONTACTS

Developer: Valve
<http://store.steampowered.com>

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 or later **RAM:** 1GB
Video: GeForce 8 or higher, or ATI X1600 or higher **Other:** Mouse, keyboard, internet connection

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ An engaging story
- ⊕ Amazing set pieces
- ⊕ Still looks good
- ⊕ Superb level design
- ⊕ It's a bargain
- ⊖ Cons? What cons?

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Simply one of the best games ever made. You'd be insane not to get it."

Once you're aboard the airboat you can run over enemies. Don't like the look of that chopper though...



Any self-respecting gamer's all-time top 10 has to include *Half-Life 2*. We first played this game, mouth agape, when it was released on PC back in 2004. Having just played it again, we can report that we experienced a similar level of enjoyment and excitement all these years later. It even gave us goosebumps during some of the more impressive set pieces, for goodness' sake.

Why is *HL2* so very good? Great storytelling and masterly design. It's as simple (or as complicated, to give due credit to the professionals who made the game) as that.

HL2's story is a rich and complex one. In the original game, theoretical physicist Gordon Freeman is working at a research centre when an accident opens a rift to another dimension and aliens spill through. When government forces are sent in to destroy both aliens and scientists alike in order to hush up the incident, Gordon Freeman must try to escape.

Enter the Combine

In the second game, many years have passed since the Black Mesa Incident (as it came to be known) and the earth is under the rule of the aliens with the remaining human population kept in check by the Combine, an oppressive regime subservient to the invaders. The dystopian scene is set for a cerebral experience. Complex storytelling in videogames is not



Two of your colleagues, and the possessors of some extremely handy technology.

uncommon now, but when *Half-Life* arrived it was something of a revelation and the long-awaited *HL2* stepped up the sophistication further.

The premise of the story acts not just as an introduction to the game (to be followed merely by mindless blasting) but permeates every part of the experience. The scenery, bleakly reminiscent of an east European city, combined with a claustrophobic sense of oppression and your constant bombardment by government propaganda via video

vehicles and on foot. The technology on show introduces us to some fascinating puzzle solving using real physics – for example, to enable you to stack crates for climbing on, or balance a makeshift seesaw with a pile of breeze blocks. What's more, the science-fiction element of the story has been used to give the game a significant aspect of survival horror – you'll come across your fair share of icky creatures, infected humans and gore-spattered locations in the course of the game.

"There's plenty of shooting to be done with a whole range of weapons, but aggression is just one facet of the experience"

screens, add up to an utterly convincing experience and an atmosphere of unparalleled tension.

In fact, to label *HL2* simply a first-person shooter is a little misleading. There's plenty of shooting to be done with a whole range of weapons, but aggression is just one facet of the experience. Interaction with other characters serves to further embellish the storyline. Elaborate pathways through the city and the frequent presence of ramshackle buildings allows for some wonderful cat-and-mouse segments as you try to escape the government forces, both in

Then there are the glorious set-pieces that will stay with you long after the game has finished: huge chimneys threatening to fall on you; the airboat chase through the canals and the battle with the attack chopper; glimpsing a man being cruelly beaten by government forces; and the huge citadel that is your ultimate destination. Every level has at least one truly memorable moment.

It's a landmark game whichever way you look at it and the fact that Mac owners can now have a crack at it for just a few measly pounds is a welcome gift. **AD**

>>COMBAT RPG

Mini Ninjas



£30 Six little ninjas head off on a very big adventure

Not many games appeal to adults and young children alike, but *Mini Ninjas* pulls off this feat with style, wit and charm. This is especially surprising in light of the fact that the *Mini Ninjas*' original developer is IO Interactive, purveyor of ultra-violent videogame fare such as the *Hitman* series and *Kane & Lynch*.

The love and care that's gone into penning the story and creating the game's visual style is apparent from the outset. The design of the introductory cut-scene is reminiscent of a shadow puppet show, after which the game segues into a world of so-cute-you-want-to-cuddle-them Japanese super-deformed characters, some of the most serene locations you've seen and the accompaniment of a soothing, lilting soundtrack. Frankly, quite apart from any actual gameplay, it's a delight just to hang out in the game for a while.

The premise is that after an Evil Samurai Warlord is defeated, a once-troubled land returns to peace and tranquility... for a time. However, soon the balance of nature is upset once more and a Ninja Master sends out his best men to find out what's going on.

"The Evil Samurai Warlord has returned and is capturing cute animals and turning them into an evil samurai army. How uncouth..."

Unfortunately they fail to return and eventually the Master realises he will have to send out the two remaining student Ninjas, Hiro and Futo. Hiro, while inexperienced, is adept at using Kuji magic, and in playing the character you will find he is destined for great things.

Ronin to die for

It turns out the Evil Samurai Warlord has returned and is capturing cute animals and turning them into an evil samurai army. How uncouth...

Hiro and his five mini ninja chums (who he picks up along the way) must



Barbecued apple? Hiro seems happy about it, anyway. That or a red hot coal just melted his tabi.

pass through 22 levels of enemies and hazards, and in doing so must learn new skills, collect currency and experience, and travel great distances in order to defeat the boss characters at each of the Warlord's fortresses.

It plays like a simplified *World of Warcraft*, with Hiro and his friends collecting objects, talking to characters, performing designated tasks and engaging in combat. Although Hiro is the main man, you can flip at will between all six ninjas (once you've rescued them) and thus

use their differing combat skills to best take on any enemies you're facing. Hiro, for example has his ever-evolving Kuji magic skills, so he can, for example, take spirit form and inhabit the bodies of animals, or perhaps use his magic to conjure devastating fireballs. His powers increase as you get further into the game, which accounts for the levelling-up, role-playing flavour.

Hiro's friend, Futo, is a big lunk of a boy who wields a large hammer to great effect. Bringing up the rear are Suzume, Tora, Kunoichi and Shun, whose weapons of choice are flutes,

tiger claws, a spear and a bow and arrow, respectively. It's an eclectic team and while the combat during the early levels is a little repetitive, when all the ninjas come into play, things get a lot more interesting.

Cute Bushido

It must be said that although the journey is long, it's not particularly difficult, but it's so utterly charming even hardened gamers will enjoy playing it through.

If we're lucky there will be a sequel with more complexity and perhaps some cooperative play. If we're really lucky it'll re-emerge as an online experience. Either way, there has to be a follow-up as the *Mini Ninjas* are definitely videogame heroes we want to spend a lot more time with. **AD**

CONTACTS

Developer: Feral Interactive
www.feralinteractive.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 or later
Processor: 1.8GHz Intel
RAM: 1GB **Video:** 128MB VRAM
Hard disk space: 5GB

PROS & CONS

- + Beautiful animations
- + Lush environments
- + A variety of combat skills
- + Diverse enemies
- + Enchanting story
- Could be tougher

VERDICT

★★★★★

"It would take a very hard-hearted gamer not to be enchanted by *Mini Ninjas*."

Hiro is surrounded. Try some of your magic, little fella.



>IPHONE >IPAD >IPOD TOUCH

Apps

>>WELCOME

To our new section dedicated to all things iPhone, iPad and iPod touch related. The first three pages are for the iPhone and iPod touch, while the last two pages are iPad only.

5 ESSENTIAL APPS

Find out our favourites

1. Reeder



£1.79 RSS reader. iPad edition exists

2. Things

£5.99 Brilliant, syncing to-do list manager

3. Twitter for iPhone

£FREE The rebranded Tweetie goes free

4. Instapaper Pro

£2.99 Save articles to read when you're offline

5. iMovie

£2.99 Movie editing for iPhone 4 in your pocket

5 GREAT GAMES

Our top time-wasters

1. Strategy



£1.19 Yes, we are still a little obsessed!

2. The Warlock of Firetop Mountain

£1.79 Old skool RPG

3. Guitar Hero

£1.79 The console classic arrives for iOS!

4. Angry Birds

59p Aim and fire birds from a catapult.

5. Orba

59p Like *Bejeweled*, only better!

>>IPHONE BILL SPLITTER

Bistromath

£1.79 Don't panic! Bistromath is a bill splitter that's out of this world

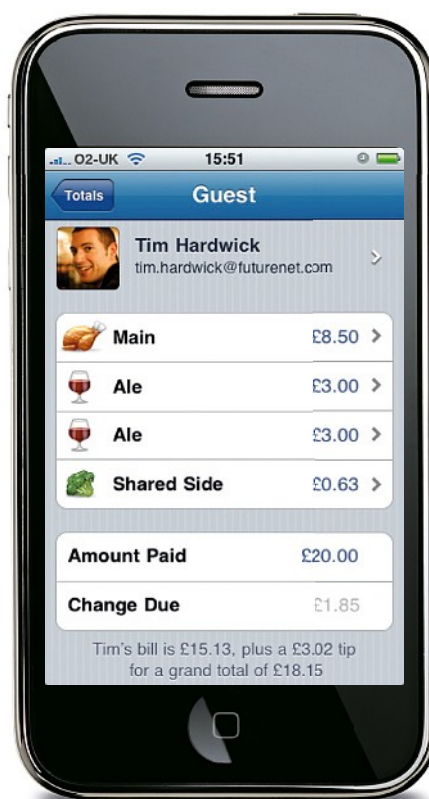
The App Store is groaning under the weight of tip calculators, but they're of limited usefulness. Even beautifully finished apps like *Tipulator* just have you enter the total of a bill from a bar or restaurant, telling it how many people are in the group, then they add a tip and split it. But what if you had soup and your friend plumped for a rib-eye steak? Or if three of you had a soft drink each, but a couple shared a bottle of wine? And what if Sandra has the correct money, but Peter only has a fifty pound note? And the tip? Shall I just leave a tenner? *Bistromath* solves all this.

It only takes a few taps to enter the cost of the meals everyone's having – if you want to take the time, you can tap through and pick from a handful of configurable options to keep track of whether you're entering a drink,

"And what if Sandra has the correct money, but Peter only has a fifty pound note? And the tip? Bistromath solves all this"

a main, a side or whatever – and the real genius comes when you realise that you can define anything as being shared among more than one person. A bowl of chips that three of you stole from? Easy. The cost is split three ways and apportioned to each of the three.

You can type people's names in manually, or hook into your *Contacts* app to pull them in, which also shows people's photos if you've tied them into the address book database. Or you can add them in *Bistromath*.



Once you're done, and have decided on a tip percentage, *Bistromath* shows you how much each person owes. Better still, you can tell it how much each person has put in the pot, and it will calculate how much change they need. You can even email receipts to the folks who were at the meal. It's a little US-centric at the moment, but it works fine in the UK. And as if that wasn't enough, up to four other people can collaborate on a bill wirelessly with no complicated setup. **CP**

PROS & CONS

- + Simplifies a complex task
- + Elegant, polished design
- + Wireless collaboration!
- A little US-centric

VERDICT

★★★★★

"It goes beyond anally retentive, but does a tricky job with elegance."

DOWNLOAD THESE APPS



You can download these apps from the iTunes Store on your Mac or from the App Store on your iPhone or iPod touch.

>> IPHONE SURVIVAL MANUAL

SAS Survival Guide

£2.99 The legendary survival handbook comes to your iPhone**PROS & CONS**

- Well-respected advice
- A few video tutorials
- Good value
- App needs a polish

VERDICT

★★★★★

"There's lots of good info here; it's just not presented especially well."

Lofty Wiseman's well-respected guide to surviving in difficult situations, covering topics such as making camp, navigating, and even trapping and preparing food, has now arrived on the iPhone. While a book is decidedly more reliable in emergency situations (it doesn't need to be charged, for a start) the idea of an app still appeals. Not only ought you to be reading and familiarising yourself with the techniques described before you're put in a survival situation, it means you also get video tutorials and a couple of handy utilities.

The sun compass is a good use of the iPhone's tech, although the Morse code converter is more cool than it is useful.

The content is, of course, good, though the first aid section has drawn some criticism for being slightly out of date.

The app, though, could use a little more work. The information lacks a clear visual hierarchy, and it's sometimes presented in an order that makes it difficult to track down information in a hurry.

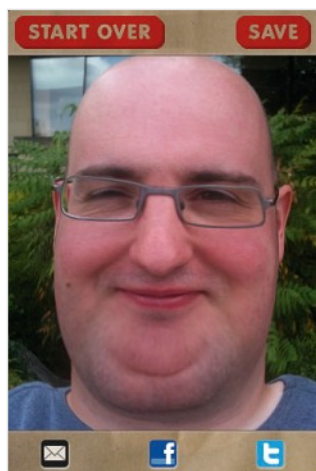
The command to alter text size takes ages to kick in, meaning you often tap multiple times only to see the text balloon in size.

It is, however, a useful app. It would be folly to rely on an electronic device in an emergency, but on the basis that you're more likely to have your iPhone with you than a specifically packed book, we can see the appeal. **CP**



>> IPHONE PHOTO APP

FatBooth

59p A bit of fun or a dire geek warning?**VERDICT**

★★★★★

"Gives good results from the right photos. Guaranteed to get you down the gym..."

You might remember us reviewing and being generally impressed by *AgingBooth*, the app that takes a shot of family, friends and foes and makes them wrinkly and old.

Now comes *FatBooth*; it's the same basic idea, but this time it appears to add a few stone of weight to people you shoot. It's easy too: snap a portrait shot, drag markers into place for eyes, mouth and chin, and it does everything else automatically. The results are genuinely rather good – and the app copes well with glasses and beards – though they're best when working on especially thin people. Unfortunately, your humble reviewer barely changed.

Pictures can be shared by email, Facebook or Twitter. **CP**

>> IPHONE CAR FINDER

Sally Park

£FREE Where did you park your car?

This is a great idea: whip out your iPhone when you park in one of those vast shopping centre car parks, let *Sally Park* use your 3GS's GPS to pinpoint its location, and then easily find your way back.

Despite a lush design, however, and the addition of handy parking-specific features – a note field to record your zone, say, and the ability to take a photo – *Sally Park* isn't an especially good tool. That arrow doesn't point you in the direction of your car; instead it merely points north. You tap an icon to bring up a map showing you and your car's location, but it's no different to dropping a pin in *Maps*.

Even though it's free, it lacks precision; just use *Maps*. **CP**

**VERDICT**

★★★★★

"A good idea, and lovely design, but the built-in Maps app is at least as useful."

>> IPHONE PUZZLE GAME

The Package



£1.19 A game that proves parcel delivery is a lot more complex than we initially thought

PROS & CONS

- Great 3D visuals
- Clever puzzles
- Hugely challenging
- Very little help given

VERDICT

★★★★★

A superb puzzle package, but it's a tough one."

Ever wondered why your mail can sometimes take an age to arrive? We finally have the answer. In each level of *The Package*, a cardboard box has to be transported from the entry point to the exit by means of positioning a number of handy gadgets such as fans, conveyor belts, springy boxing gloves and explosive charges.

As play advances, the rooms become more hazardous, featuring more elaborate routes from start to finish, nooks and crannies in which to get trapped, and even crushing machines and furnaces that destroy the package.

There are 20 levels in total, which doesn't seem that many. However, *The Package* chooses not to guide you through lots of introductory challenges



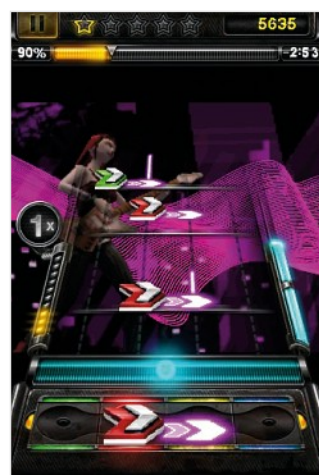
and instead starts off tricky, and rapidly becomes incredibly difficult with little help available if you're struggling. It's a long process of trial and error, but satisfying when you find a solution.

Part *Incredible Machine*, part *Lemmings*, part Royal Mail sorting office, this puzzler draws its inspiration from a number of sources yet retains a personality all its own. **AD**

>> IPHONE RHYTHM ACTION

Guitar Hero

£1.79 The rhythm game rocks onto the iPhone



The successful *Guitar Hero* series has seen five different iterations on home consoles. So, it was about time the franchise made an appearance on the iPhone and the result is mostly good.

The game comes with a batch of six songs (including *Seven Nation Army* and *Paint it Black*) with additional three-song expansion packs available at £1.19 each.

The gameplay is spot-on with responsive four-button play and innovative slide moves to take advantage of the iPhone's screen. A lack of any meaningful single player career progression is compensated for by a whole bunch of challenges to be completed on each track. The only real downside is the lack of a multiplayer option.

Even so, this is vintage *Guitar Hero* and a bargain for under £2. **AD**

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A very cheap and very cheerful translation of the world's favourite rhythm game."

>> IPHONE ADVENTURE

The Warlock of Firetop Mountain

£1.79 Classic pen-and-paper role-playing

When Steve Jackson and Ian Livingstone introduced the first Fighting Fantasy gamebook back in 1982, *The Warlock of Firetop Mountain* captured the hearts and imaginations of geeks everywhere. The idea of playing a Dungeons and Dragons-style adventure on your own, with the book acting as the dungeon master, was an instant winner.

28 years later, on the iPhone, the basic adventure remains the same but the dice rolling, stat calculations and inventory systems have been automated. In addition, the original monochrome illustrations are now full colour.

Even with its basic gameplay, *Firetop Mountain* enchants from the very first paragraph. **AD**



VERDICT

★★★★★

"A timeless classic. And now, a little piece of role-playing history in your pocket."

Fully Fertilised For iPad™



Winner of Over 25 Game of the Year Awards
Hi-Def Multi-Touch Fun
Get it now!



www.popcap.com

©2010 PopCap Games, Inc. iPad is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. All rights reserved.

>> IPAD RSS READER

Reeder



£2.99 RSS just found its soulmate

PROS & CONS

- + Clean, elegant presentation
- + Syncs with Google Reader
- Hugely configurable
- Great for hardcore users

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Not just a superb RSS reader, it's also an object lesson in fine app design."

While some hold up *Pulse* (£2.39) as the best way to access RSS feeds – stripped-down, automatically refreshed website content that you usually subscribe to for free – it's a little too lightweight for us. It's fine if you only have a dozen or so feeds coming in, but if you follow a lot more than that, *Reeder* is the app for you.

You might already be familiar with it on the iPhone, and the experience is similar here. A deceptively simple interface presents clean, well-formatted and smartly laid-out content in both portrait and landscape format. It hooks into the Google Reader service to keep read and unread items synced between your iPad and other Reader-aware apps such as *NetNewsWire* on the Mac.

The developer has really sweated the details. Never mind the extravagant *Photos*-on-iPad-style unpinch that lets you fan out folders



Follow your RSS feeds in style with Reeder, the only way (we think) to keep up to date on an iPad.

of feeds to see which have stories; we love how the up and down arrows in the toolbar at the left side of the screen lets you advance through unread stories with a twitch of the thumb on the hand holding the iPad.

Stories that you like can be shared in a frankly bewildering variety of ways, including sending to the excellent Instapaper service, and we love how you can drag a story

summary one way to star it, or another way to remark the entry as unread.

It supports Google Reader's notes, can show articles shared by friends you follow, and even caches images in RSS feeds so you can still read your feeds when you're not online. It's terrifically configurable too. You can toggle off some of the many sharing options, change what grade of items is downloaded and much more. **CP**

>> IPAD TWITTER CLIENT

Echofon Pro for Twitter

£2.99 Power wins over polish

PROS & CONS

- + Configurable push
- + Geotagging/retweets
- Unloved interface
- No sync with Mac

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Sports a reasonable set of features, but it isn't pretty and lacks a sync feature."

The iPad has far fewer Twitter clients than the iPhone. While we wait for *Tweetie* to be released you can realistically choose between *Twitterrific* (pretty, focused), *Twittellator* (a bit too extravagant for some), *Osfoora HD* (a new contender winning lots of fans) and *Echofon*. Since *Echofon* has so many fans on the iPhone, it's a strong candidate.

But although it's capable, its interface seems bleak to the point of actual ugliness; and it's not just about aesthetics either; the only-slightly-heavier black line that separates old tweets from new, for example, makes it hard to glance at and see which tweets remain unread.



Echofon Pro for Twitter offers reasonable control over your tweets, and the tweets of others.

Still, there's lots to like. It supports proper API retweets and geotagging, and can group conversations into threads. Here, though, its behaviour is divisive; it's good that it gathers tweets that aren't in a strict thread, but it can be hard to tell who's replying to who.

It supports configurable push notifications, though their appearance seemed a little hit-and-miss. But as we write this review, it can't (unlike the iPhone version) sync read/unread tweets between the Mac/iPhone versions. Hopefully more to come. **CP**

>> IPAD ACTION GAME

Mirror's Edge



£7.49 It costs a bit, but the running is free

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Looks amazing
- ⊕ Great acrobatics
- ⊕ Two-player mode
- ⊖ It's a bit short

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A beautiful and well-adapted game that makes up for its short length."

Mirror's Edge appeared on home consoles to mixed reviews, but let us state right now that those individuals who slagged off the game were, well, just plain wrong. Sure, it was short and the plot was a bit of a mess, but in terms of style, spectacle and delivering a unique gaming experience, *Mirror's Edge* was a triumph.

Despite being a cut-down, side-on version of the fully 3D original, *Mirror's Edge* on the iPad suffers the same flaws, but also delivers where it matters. In fact, if anything the game is a greater success because it's a more casual experience, so size and plot deficiencies count for less.

In the future, according to *Mirror's Edge*, we'll be living under a police state and the only way we'll be able to communicate privately is through the use of free runners who avoid capture by sprinting and leaping across the rooftops of the city.



Hanging on a zip wire high above the city and getting shot at by a chopper. It's all in a day's work.

You play a runner called Faith, who, over the course of the game, must evade the police and other rogue runners who are doing the bidding of an evil corporation.

To get from one end of a level to the other you must swipe the screen in order to perform various acrobatic moves. You can run, jump, turn, leap off walls, balance on girders, travel down zip wires and take out enemies

in acrobatic fashion. It's easy to get the hang of and it all looks stunning.

The split-screen two-player mode (in which you and a friend sit either side of the iPad to race and battle each other across the rooftops) is the icing on an already sweet cake. It's just a shame the story mode can be easily completed, and so swiftly. Still, a sequel has been announced so there will be more where this came from. **AD**

>> IPAD ARCADE GAME

Super Monkey Ball: Sakura Edition

£4.99 AiAi and chums make their iPad debut

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Loads of levels
- ⊕ An additional level set
- ⊕ Four player minigame
- ⊖ Control issues

VERDICT

★★★★★

"It needs a bit of a tweak control-wise, but the formula still has (furry) legs."

The first home version of Sega's *Monkey Ball* coin-op (*Super Monkey Ball* on Nintendo Game Cube) was such a perfectly conceived and executed game that no sequel since has quite lived up to it. Having said that, the combination of balls, monkeys and minigames is always a delight, whatever you play it on.

This iPad-specific update is not without its flaws. Graphically it's clearly not utilising all the A4 chip's power. Worse, the controls are a bit iffy – there's no recalibration option so you're stuck with the default, which means holding the iPad at a 45-degree angle to represent a level playing field.



Monkey Ball on the iPad isn't as responsive to turns as it should be, making things a bit sluggish.

Cheer up, though, because otherwise it's tremendously good fun. Not just because of the extensive array of levels on offer, but also the entertaining minigames. Monkey Base is a minigame in which four players take a corner of

the screen each and lob fireballs at their opponent's base in order to destroy all their blocks, while also trying to protect their own. A fully polished version would be great next time round but for now, this will do just fine. **AD**

GROUP TEST



Photo sharing websites

Words by **Christopher Brennan**
Photography by **Philip Sowels**

Confused by photo sharing sites? Find out which service you should entrust your precious memories to

Sharing images online has to be one of the most popular activities to have grown out of the internet revolution. The spread of broadband to most households also means it's possible to upload loads of pictures in one go. Obviously, it's possible to create your own photo galleries by writing some HTML code and resizing your photos accordingly. The problem with this approach is that not only is it time consuming, it also requires that you do the work.

So it's no surprise that automatically managed photo uploading sites are a

much more popular method of getting your images online. In this group test we're going to put six of the most popular ones through their paces to see which you should be using.

We'll be looking at which sites make it easiest for you to get your images

"A well-designed site should make the whole process simple enough for you to use it over and over"

online and which offer the most flexible ways for you to share your pictures. Obviously, pricing will also be an important factor too, as will extra services and add-ons. A well-designed service should also make the process simple enough for you to use over and over.

The sites we've gathered here all offer much the same end result, but their design and features all differ greatly, not to mention pricing structures. The best photo sharing site will have to balance all of the best features and price with usability. >>



>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?

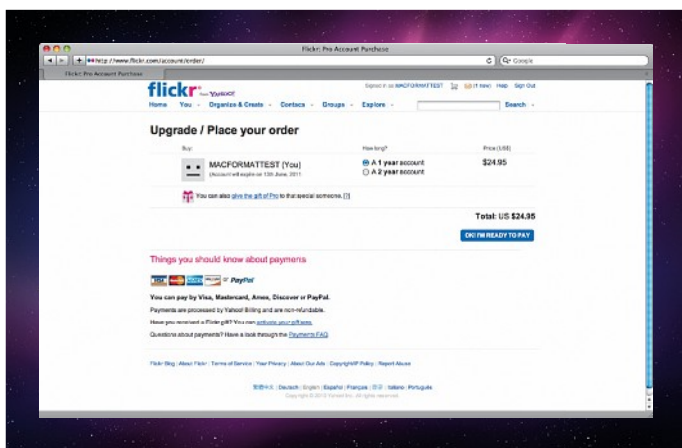
Flickr is one of the world's most popular online photo sharing sites and in October 2009 announced it had surpassed 4 billion images uploaded to its servers. That's not at all bad when you consider the site only launched in February 2004.

>> PHOTO SHARING SITES / At a glance



	Flickr	MobileMe	Picasa Web Albums	Photobucket	SmugMug	Snapfish
Free account option	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Unlimited storage	Yes*	No	No	Yes*	Yes*	Yes
iPhoto/Aperture plug-in	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Standalone uploader application	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Photo printing	Yes**	Yes***	Yes**	Yes**	Yes**	Yes
Copyright management	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Visitor statistics	Yes*****	Yes	Yes	Yes*****	Yes	No
Image editing	Yes	Yes***	Yes****	Yes	Yes	No

*in paid option ** US based *** With iPhoto **** With Picasa for Mac ***** Limited on free account



Flickr is only free up to a point - to go over the upload limit you need to cough up the cash.

»»TEST ONE

Storage pricing

A free service isn't always the best, but it helps

This test might seem like a simple win for Snapfish, which offers unlimited uploads to its free service, but there's a large caveat to this: you have to pay to download your images (25p each). Photobucket and Flickr also offer free options, though these have restrictions. Flickr has a 100MB monthly upload limit and Photobucket restricts you to 500MB. You pay \$25 (about £17) a year extra to remove these limits. Picasa Web Albums from Google is free, but storage is limited to 1GB, but it's possible to pay Google for an extra 200GB of storage space for \$50 (£34) a year, for example.

MobileMe and SmugMug have offer trials. SmugMug's standard account costs \$40 a year with unlimited uploads/downloads. MobileMe is £59 for 12 months and comes with 20GB of storage, but this is shared between your iDisk, email and other services. Add to that a 200MB restriction on data transfer and MobileMe seems the mean-fisted one in the bunch.

»»TEST RESULTS

Flickr	★★★★★
MobileMe	★★★★★
Snapfish	★★★★★
Photobucket	★★★★★
Picasa Web Albums	★★★★★
SmugMug	★★★★★

»»TEST TWO

Uploading images

How easy it is to get photos from your Mac to the web

You can upload your pictures to each of the services here with a simple web tool. Getting your images online is hardly a chore, but the methods used do vary. An obvious leader here is MobileMe with its *iPhoto* and *Aperture* integration, simple and effective editing, sorting and uploading in one app. Google's *Picasa* application is also effective and totally free. If you plan to use the Picasa service the desktop app is all but compulsory given that you can only upload five images at a time via the web interface.

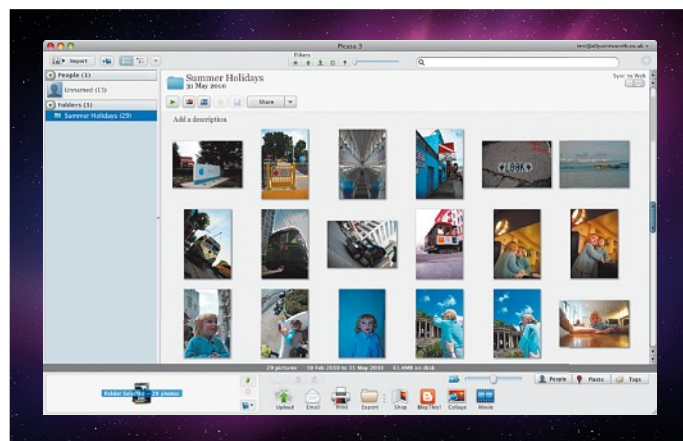
Photobucket is the poor relation in this section, with just a web

upload option. You can perform bulk uploads, but the lack of any Mac-based synchronisation other than your own file system is a bit of a drawback.

Though MobileMe might appear an easy winner here, it's worth remembering that *iPhoto* doesn't get free upgrades, unlike Picasa, and for that reason the Google service edges this round.

»»TEST RESULTS

Flickr 4	★★★★★
MobileMe 4	★★★★★
Snapfish 3	★★★★★
Photobucket 2	★★★★★
Picasa Web Albums 5	★★★★★
SmugMug 3	★★★★★



Google's Picasa application is a superb tool - some will like it even more than iPhoto.

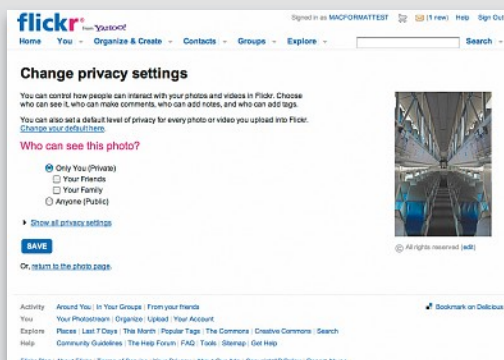
»»COPYRIGHT ISSUES / Who owns your pictures?

One thing many people don't even consider when putting their pictures online is that they are immediately at risk of being stolen. Some of the myths surrounding copyright include the claim that once you put your pictures on the web you lose all rights. This is nonsense. Your images remain yours no matter where they are.

Some of the photo sharing sites on this test enable you to publish your pictures with certain rights attached to them. For instance, you can use a Creative Commons agreement to allow people to use your

images in non-commercial work or in any way they see fit as long as they credit you.

The thing to remember is that someone can't just use your pictures however they want. If a national newspaper or 24-hour news channel uses one of your images without permission, you're well within your rights to send an invoice. But even though your work is copyright protected, you have to ask yourself how comfortable you are for people to take copies of your pictures. If it is a worry then you might want to hide your stuff behind a password.



If someone uses your image you have a right to ask them to pay up.

>>TEST THREE

Printing options

Once your images are online, what else can you get?

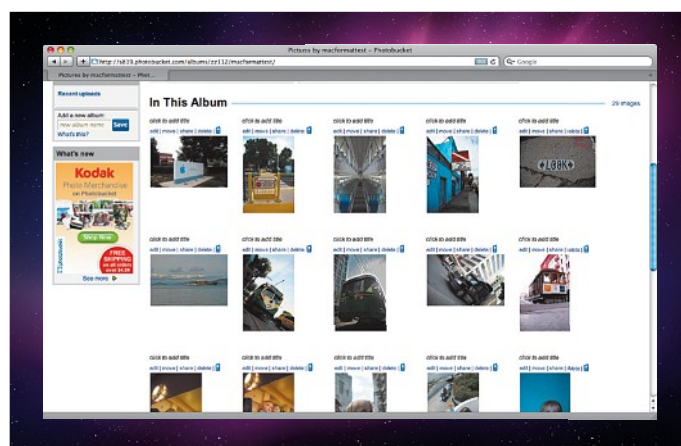
Sharing images online is great, but for many people a good old-fashioned print is still the best way to view a picture; with a hard copy you don't need to power up a computer and it even works in a power cut.

In this test, it's fair to say that Snapfish is ahead of the crowd, as its photo printing options are very good. Clearly Snapfish is designed as a photo-printing site first and is probably more geared to that aim than it is a photo-sharing site, but the benefits to this are obvious considering the range of services. The Snapfish service can also import your images from Flickr, and you can use UK printing services.

You can order prints from *iPhoto* and *Picasa*, but neither offers printing from the web, as yet. Google offers web printing for US customers, as does Photobucket, so it may arrive in the UK soon. We really liked the way SmugMug managed the printing option. The interface is slick and easy to follow, but again services are mailed from the US, so incur extra costs.

>>TEST RESULTS

Flickr	★★★★★
MobileMe	★★★★★
Snapfish	★★★★★
Photobucket	★★★★★
Picasa Web Albums	★★★★★
SmugMug	★★★★★



Community-focused Flickr is designed to make sharing of your photos a doddle.

>>TEST FOUR

Sharing

Letting the world see your pictures should be simple

Sharing your images with the rest of the world is one of the best things about photo sharing sites. By far and away the best site for this is Flickr. The large community of users and simple linking makes it easy to share images and for them to be found by others. Geotagging and tags all help to make your images more visible. Flickr also makes it easy to hide your pictures from the outside world.

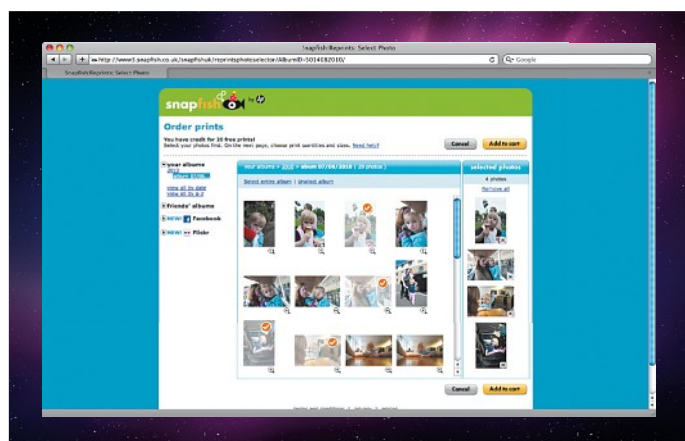
SmugMug's approach to sharing is also to be applauded, with simple and efficient ways to let people know where your photos can be found. It's not that they necessarily offer a larger range of

possibilities as much as they make the process of sharing simple.

Snapfish loses major points by requiring users to create an account to view albums. MobileMe galleries certainly look impressive, but not all the features work well in all web browsers. Photobucket enables one-click sharing with Facebook, MySpace and Twitter as well as the web.

>>TEST RESULTS

Flickr	★★★★★
MobileMe	★★★★★
Snapfish	★★★★★
Photobucket	★★★★★
Picasa Web Albums	★★★★★
SmugMug	★★★★★



Snapfish is far ahead of the pack when it comes to photo printing options for UK users.

>>THE WINNER / Flickr

Pricing a winner was difficult because each service offers a slightly different perspective on photo sharing. Obviously, Apple's MobileMe service has a host of extra, unrelated benefits - this in complete contrast to SmugMug, whose offering is wholly aimed and tailored for the photographer. In fact, though SmugMug doesn't win the test we'd like to make a mention of it here as an excellent service well worth checking out - if you're an enthusiastic amateur or prolific pro, then the service has much to offer.

Flickr is still the one to beat though. The range of options is excellent and while there's little control over display, the layout is easy to follow. Powerful and simple to use, Flickr takes the top spot.

>>FINAL RESULTS

Flickr	★★★★★
MobileMe	★★★★★
Snapfish	★★★★★
Photobucket	★★★★★
Picasa Web Albums	★★★★★
SmugMug	★★★★★



The all-new Digital Camera.

The definitive guide to SLR photography.

ON
SALE
NOW



All-new and improved mag with FREE video disc and 52-page landscape book.

See it today at www.photoradar.com/preview



"The new iPhone 4 features the amazing new Retina Display"

» ALL NEW IPHONE P119

HOW TO BUY

How to buy a new Mac	114
Choose the right Mac	116
What about an iPhone or an iPad?	118
Choosing an iPod	120

TOP GEAR

Keyboards & mice	122
Printers & All-in-ones	122
Displays	122
Speakers	122
Digital cameras	123
Digital video cameras	123
Routers/networking	123
Storage	123
Home office	124
Visual tools and layout	124
Games	124
Multimedia software	124

Buyers' Guide

- DESKTOPS
- LAPTOPS
- IPADS
- IPODS
- IPHONES



Graham Barlow
Editor

Apple has chosen to update the Mac mini this month with a much-requested HDMI port and a stylish new aluminium case that provides easy access to the RAM, should you wish to upgrade it. It also removes the need for an ugly big power brick outside the Mac itself. Unfortunately, this new design comes at a high price – £649 and £929 to be exact. So, rather than being an obvious choice if you're shopping for a Mac on a budget, the mini

is now only £320 less than the 21.5-inch iMac, which of course comes with an Apple keyboard, Apple Magic Mouse and has a monitor built-in. Your choice between a Mac mini and an iMac is now really down to the situation you want to use it in – if space is an issue, get the Mac mini; if it's not, then I say go for the iMac. By the time you've factored in a decent monitor, keyboard and mouse, the two Macs cost pretty much the same. Read Ian's Mac mini review on page 86.

» BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.

How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you choose!



>>>DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The 15-inch and 17-inch MacBook Pros now use Intel Core i-series CPUs. The 13-inch MacBook Pro and the white polycarbonate MacBook still use Core 2 Duo processors.

The top-of-the-range standard configuration of the Mac Pro uses two quad-core Intel Xeon processors.



Apple sells its products every which way at once. You can buy a Mac direct from the online Apple Store (<http://store.apple.com/uk>); from one of the growing number of bricks-and-mortar Apple Stores around the country; from official 'Apple shops' within department stores, staffed by certified Apple Solutions Consultants; and from hundreds of independent Apple Authorised Resellers and Premium Resellers, variously selling online or on the high street.

The bigger independents buy direct from Apple, while others go through a network of distributors, listed at www.apple.com/uk/buy/distributors. Given this range of outlets, shopping around for your Mac could save you money – but probably not very much. There simply isn't

much profit margin for independent dealers to knock off. The Mac's popularity means Apple doesn't have to leave a big gap between its wholesale prices and Apple Store prices – effectively the minimum and maximum level at which retailers can sell their wares.

Authorised Resellers may knock a few pounds off Apple Store prices, and can also sell you other kit at competitive prices. Although you may find fractionally lower prices online, by choosing a local dealer you could get the benefit

The 21.5-inch iMac starts at £969. The most expensive iMac costs £1,634.



of trying before you buy and having someone on hand to answer questions. Either way, Mac resellers tend to be very knowledgeable and keen to help.

There are a couple of other ways to cut the cost of a new Mac. Business buyers can save a fortune by

price of £1,378. Authorised Resellers can access these special rates and may even shave a bit more off for you.

To help you find the cash, Apple also offers financing options. For consumers, this spreads the payments, though you do pay interest. For businesses, flexible leasing knocks

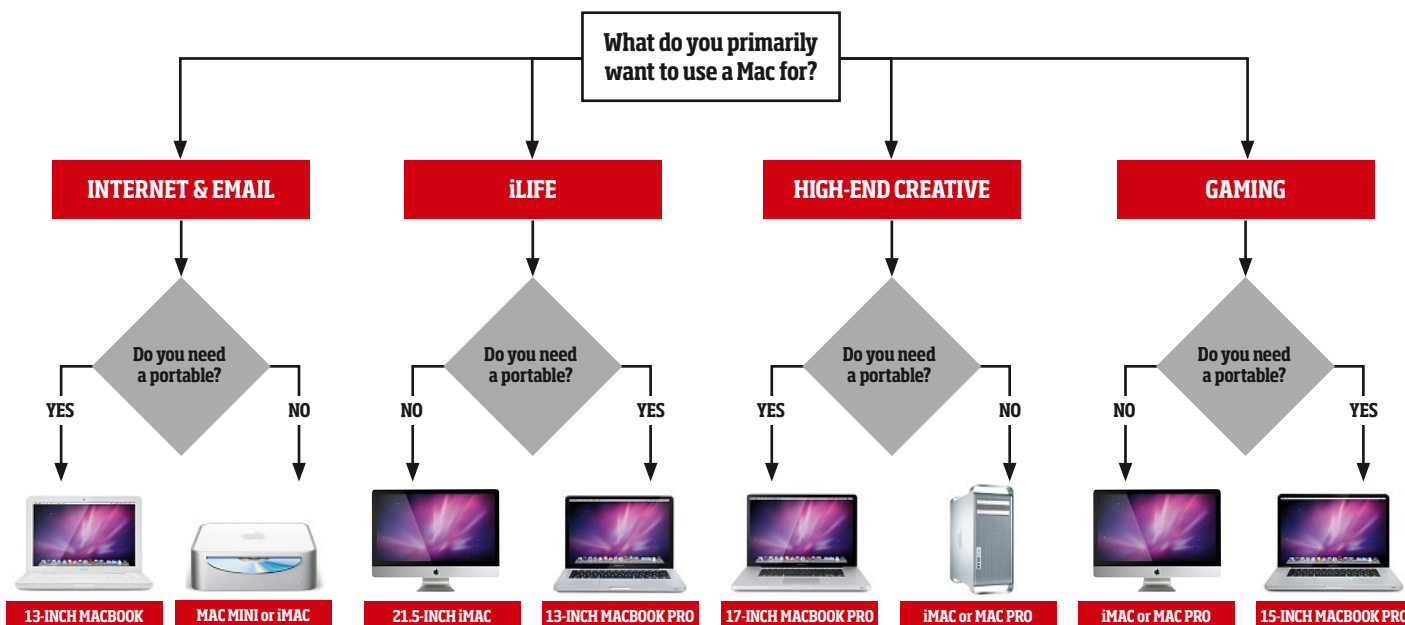
"Business buyers can save a fortune [when buying a Mac] by reclaiming the VAT and offsetting the purchase against tax"

reclaiming the VAT and offsetting the purchase against tax. If you're not eligible, you may still qualify for a discount from Apple. Any student or teacher can get special pricing, as listed at www.apple.com/uk/education/store. That includes schoolkids. The reductions aren't huge, but they're worth having: for example, a dual-core 27-inch iMac lists for £1,295, compared to the regular

more off your tax bill and lets you upgrade your hardware – and indeed software – when necessary without spending big chunks of capital. You can find out plenty more at www.apple.com/uk/financing.

Your budget will stretch even further with clearance, refurb and second-user deals. If you can suppress your envy of marginally newer, shinier kit, the best time to shop for a Mac is

>> CHOOSING A MAC / WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?



just after Apple brings out new models. Wander down to John Lewis and you're quite likely to find the last of the old range with three-figure reductions. Do check the specs against the incoming versions, which will offer more for the same original price, but at the bottom end of the range you could pay less than the current entry-level for a perfectly good machine. Anywhere that holds Macs in stock is similarly worth a raid, and online retailers also have clearance bins.

Apple Refurb Store

Apple itself has a surprisingly little-known online bargain basement at <http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/specialdeals/mac>. It's a treasure trove of cut-price kit, with some clearance items and many described as 'refurbished'. This usually means someone's bought a Mac, then changed their mind or found a problem and sent it back. Industry insiders tell us these returns often have absolutely nothing wrong with them, and in any case they're fully tested and any faults fixed before they're resold. They're guaranteed for a full year and extendable up to three years via AppleCare.

Besides deciding who to buy from, there's the tricky question of which



The MacBook is ideal for entry-level users, but the more demanding should go for a Pro.

Mac to pick. You can have a MacBook, MacBook Pro, Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. Most Mac families offer several standard models, plus

next option doubles the hard disk space and adds a more powerful graphics card - but at £256 extra, you'd really have to want that graphics

"Most Mac families offer several standard models, plus plenty of built-to-order options, adding up to hundreds of possibilities"

plenty of built-to-order options, adding up to hundreds of possibilities.

By comparing the prices of different configurations - easily done at <http://store.apple.com/uk> - you can suss out the best value. For example, the entry-level 21.5-inch iMac is a bargain at £969. If you want a higher spec, the

card. But hang on: you're not limited to the preset models. By clicking the Select button, you can tweak the specs to create your own Mac. The only downside is that you'll need to allow a week or two for your own personal Mac to arrive. Just think of it as an exercise in delayed gratification.



>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The iMac was first introduced way back in 1998. The latest iMacs come supplied with a wireless keyboard and the new Multi-Touch Apple Magic Mouse as standard.

How to choose the perfect Mac

Let us help you make the right purchase. Here are your options...

21.5-inch 3.06GHz £969

- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card
- Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard



iMac

Updated
October
2009

21.5-inch 3.06GHz £1,225

- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 4670 graphics, 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card
- Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 3.06GHz £1,378

- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 4670 graphics, 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card; video-in port • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 2.66GHz (Quad Core) £1,634

- 2.66GHz Intel Core i5 Quad Core • 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels) • 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 4850 graphics, 512MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FW 800; 1xSD card; video-in port • Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

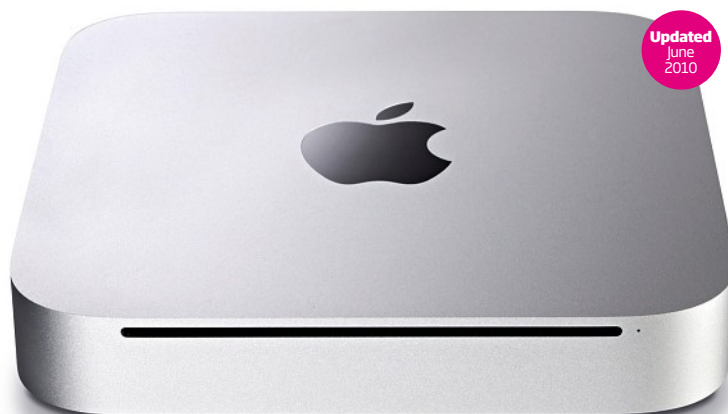


>>>DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The latest Mac mini offers an SD reader and HDMI, but it does come with one fewer USB 2.0 port than its predecessor.

2.4GHz 320GB £649

- 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 4x USB 2.0 • SD card slot
- Snow Leopard, iLife '09
- HDMI to DVI adaptor



Updated
June
2010

Mac mini

Mac Pro

Quad-Core

£1,940

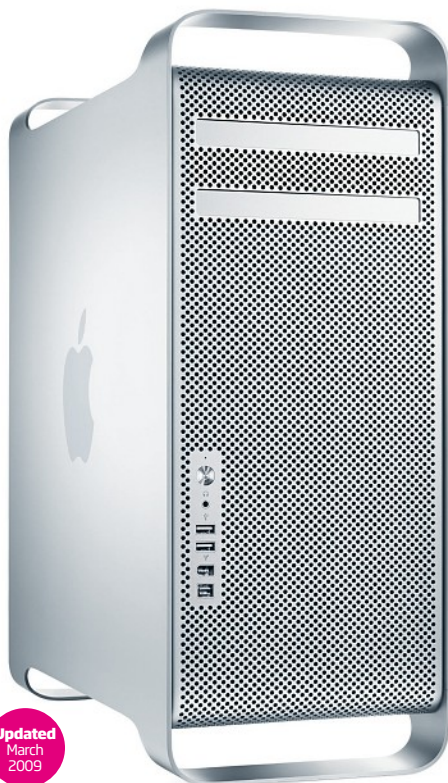
- 2.66GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 3GB RAM (3x 1GB DDR3 ECC SDRAM) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output • 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports • Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

8-Core

£2,553

- 2x 2.66GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (6x 1GB DDR3 ECC) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output • 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports • Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

Updated
March
2009



13-inch 2.4GHz

£999

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

13-inch 2.66GHz

£1,249

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.4GHz

£1,499

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.4GHz Intel Core i5, 3MB shared L3 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Integrated Intel HD graphics + NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M with 256MB VRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.53GHz

£1,649

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.53GHz Intel Core i5, 3MB shared L3 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Integrated Intel HD graphics + NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M with 256MB VRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

13-inch 1.86GHz

£1,174

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 120GB Serial ATA, 4,200rpm • Built-in 802.11n Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Snow Leopard • 1x USB 2.0 port • Mini DisplayPort • MagSafe power adaptor

13-inch 2.13GHz

£1,378

- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 128GB solid-state drive • Built-in 802.11n Wi-Fi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Snow Leopard • 1x USB 2.0 port • Mini DisplayPort • MagSafe power adaptor

13-inch white 2.4GHz

£849

- 13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels • 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 3MB shared L2 cache • 2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM) • 250GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm • 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 320M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • AirPort Extreme • Built-in iSight video camera • Bluetooth 2.0

15-inch 2.66GHz

£1,799

- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.66GHz Intel Core i7, 4MB shared L3 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Integrated Intel HD graphics + NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M with 512MB VRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

17-inch 2.53GHz

£1,899

- 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels • 2.53GHz Intel Core i5 3MB shared L3 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Integrated Intel HD graphics + NVIDIA GeForce GT 330M with 512MB VRAM • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife • 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0, 1x ExpressCard/34 slot



MacBook Air



MacBook

Updated
May
2010



Updated
April
2010

MacBook Pro

What about an iPhone or iPad?

Apple's mobile devices are designed to sync perfectly with your Mac



>>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The iPad's processor is, according to Apple, a '1GHz A4 custom-designed, high-performance, low-power system-on-a-chip'. Its LED-backlit IPS display gives it an incredible 178-degree viewing angle.

Both the iPhone and iPad have a touchscreen, come with email and web browsing applications and are capable of running third-party apps that you can get from Apple's App Store. But the iPad isn't simply a bigger iPhone. The iPhone is first and foremost a phone, and like all mobile phones, unless you buy it on Pay as You Go (which makes the device itself much more expensive) you're going to be tied into a phone contract.

If you want all the features of the iPhone but without the phone part, then consider getting an iPod touch instead (see over the page). If you're looking for a phone then you'll find the iPhone is designed to cover all your data needs while you're on the go, and fits in your pocket.

In contrast, the iPad is a device that sits somewhere between an iPhone and a Mac. It also comes with a 3G data contract option, but that doesn't include phone calls. The only phone calls you can make with it will be digitally, using VoIP apps like *Skype*. While a lot of people find the iPhone perfectly acceptable for home use, if you just need to check your email or do a quick bit of web surfing, the iPad is positively designed to be used from your sofa. It has built-in Wi-Fi, which means

The iPhone 4 offers a new form factor and some exciting new features, such as a front-facing camera for video chat.



The iPad can be used in landscape or portrait mode, with the screen rotating automatically.

you can check emails and browse the web on your wireless network at home. Here it would fulfil most functions of a laptop, but don't fall into the trap of thinking of the iPad as a replacement for a home computer -

latest model, the iPhone 4, features a stunning new 960x640 high resolution display, making it much easier to read on-screen text. The screen itself is now IPS (in plane switching) for great viewing

"The iPad sits between an iPhone and a Mac. If you just need to check your email or do a quick bit of web surfing, the iPad is ideal"

it's not. It's fundamentally designed to be an accessory. You're meant to keep your data on your Mac and sync your iPad with it, not the other way around.

It does have some big advantages over a Mac laptop, though. For a start, because it uses solid state memory it's pretty-much instant on. There's no waiting around for it to boot up. It's also lightweight, extremely portable and the perfect size to be used as an ebook reader.

The iPhone currently comes in two versions, the 3GS and iPhone 4. The

angles. However you hold it, the colours won't shift. There's also a front-facing camera for video chat and HD video recording using the rear camera.

The iPad comes in three capacities, 16GB, 32GB and 64GB, and is available in Wi-Fi or Wi-Fi + 3G versions. The 3G version costs £100 more initially and comes with data plans from either O2, Orange or Vodafone. Prices start at £429 for the 16GB Wi-Fi version, and go up to £699 for the top-of-the-range 64GB Wi-Fi + 3G iPad.



iPad

Launched
May
2010



iPad 16GB

£429 (Wi-Fi)

£529 (Wi-Fi + 3G)

- 9.7-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit glossy widescreen
- 1024x768 pixels • 1GHz Apple A4 processor • Up to 10 hours surfing on Wi-Fi, watching video or listening to music • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker • Microphone
- 242.8x189.7x13.4mm
- 68g (Wi-Fi model) • 73g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later, USB 2.0 port

iPad 32GB

£499 (Wi-Fi)

£599 (Wi-Fi + 3G)

- 9.7-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit glossy widescreen
- 1024x768 pixels • 1GHz Apple A4 processor • Up to 10 hours surfing on Wi-Fi, watching video or listening to music • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker • Microphone
- 242.8x189.7x13.4mm
- 68g (Wi-Fi model) • 73g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later, USB 2.0 port

iPad 64GB

£599 (Wi-Fi)

£699 (Wi-Fi + 3G)

- 9.7-inch (diagonal) LED-backlit glossy widescreen
- 1024x768 pixels • 1GHz Apple A4 processor • Up to 10 hours surfing on Wi-Fi, watching video or listening to music • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker • Microphone
- 242.8x189.7x13.4mm
- 68g (Wi-Fi model) • 73g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later, USB 2.0 port

» APPS EVERYWHERE

The iPad, iPhone and the iPod touch featured over the page can all install and run apps from Apple's App Store. Many of these apps (like the Facebook app, or *Twitterrific*) are free, but even the paid-for apps are inexpensive compared to the prices of software for the Mac. However, there's one obvious problem: the iPad has a 9.7-inch screen, while the iPhone has a 3.5-inch screen. Obviously, apps designed to run on the iPhone are going to look tiny on the iPad's larger display.

To make them fit, Apple has introduced something called 'pixel doubling'. Every pixel in the app is doubled, so the app becomes twice the size it was before, thus filling the screen (well, pretty much). You also have the option of running the app at its native resolution on the iPad if you prefer, although this can look strange as the app then sits in a sea of blackness. The pixel-doubling approach can make apps look a little bit fuzzy, especially games, but it appears to be a good enough solution for most apps.

Apple is, of course, encouraging developers to design apps specifically for the iPad's larger screen, so if you're an iPad owner, look out for iPad-only versions of your favourite apps from the App Store. Not only do they look better than their iPhone originals, but the larger screen size means developers can fit extra controls and features into the interface. That means more fun to be had in games, for example.

Some apps are only be available for the iPad. Apple is starting the ball rolling here by releasing its *iWork* suite (consisting of *Pages*, *Numbers* and *Keynote*) for the iPad only. Conversely, apps that utilise the camera on the iPhone obviously won't work on the iPad. Look out for apps with a '+' symbol next to their price on the App store. This means the apps will work perfectly on both iPad and iPhone.

iPad games often have extra control options built in.

iPhone

Updated
June
2010



iPhone 3GS 8GB

£419 (Pay & Go)

- Available in black
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm
- 135g • Requires Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later

iPhone 4 16GB

£499 (Pay & Go)

- Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x58.6x9.3mm
- 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

iPhone 4 32GB

£599 (Pay & Go)

- Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x58.6x9.3mm
- 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later



Choosing an iPod

There's an iPod for everyone

There's an iPod for every occasion. The shuffle is the perfect iPod to take to the gym with you, thanks to its handy lightweight clip-on case. There's no screen, but VoiceOver technology means you can hear the name of each track. The iPod nano is also lightweight enough for exercise, and features a colour screen, a video camera (but no still shots) and FM radio together with a larger capacity. If you really want to carry

all your music around with you then you should opt for the chunkier iPod classic, which has a huge 160GB capacity. It can play videos, but it doesn't come with a video camera.

Finally there's the iPod touch. It's essentially an iPhone, but without the phone part. You can use it to connect to a Wi-Fi network for web browsing, email and more. And of course it runs apps from the App Store, so it's great for games. ●

iPod shuffle 2GB

- £46
- Up to 500 songs
 - No ability to display photos or videos
 - Available in a range of colours
 - No screen
 - VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
 - Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
 - 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
 - 10.7g

iPod shuffle 4GB

- £60
- Up to 1,000 songs
 - No ability to display photos or videos
 - Available in a range of colours
 - No screen
 - VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
 - Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
 - 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
 - 10.7g

Updated
September
2009



iPod shuffle



Updated
September
2009

iPod nano

iPod classic



Updated
September
2009

iPod classic 160GB

- £193
- Up to 40,000 songs
 - Up to 25,000 photos
 - Up to 200 hours of video
 - Available in black and silver
 - 2.5-inch screen
 - 320x240 pixels
 - Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
 - Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
 - 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
 - 140g

iPod nano 8GB

- £118
- Up to 2,000 songs
 - Up to 7,000 photos
 - Up to 8 hours of video
 - Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
 - 2.2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
 - Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) or 4 hours (video)
 - Includes video camera & FM radio
 - 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
 - 36.8g

iPod nano 16GB

- £138
- Up to 4,000 songs
 - Up to 14,000 photos
 - Up to 16 hours of video
 - Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
 - 2.2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
 - Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) or 4 hours (video)
 - Includes video camera & FM radio
 - 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
 - 36.8g

iPod touch



Updated
September
2009

iPod touch 8GB

- £152
- Up to 1,750 songs
 - Up to 10,000 photos
 - Up to 10 hours of video
 - Available in black
 - 3.5-inch screen
 - 320x480 pixels
 - Wi-Fi (802.11b/g)
 - Nike + iPod support
 - Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
 - 110x61.8x8mm
 - 120g

iPod touch 32GB

- £234
- Up to 7,000 songs
 - Up to 25,000 photos
 - Up to 40 hours of video
 - Available in black
 - 3.5-inch screen
 - 320x480 pixels
 - Wi-Fi (802.11b/g)
 - Nike + iPod support
 - Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
 - 110x61.8x8mm
 - 120g

iPod touch 64GB

- £306
- Up to 14,000 songs
 - Up to 50,000 photos
 - Up to 80 hours of video
 - Available in black
 - 3.5-inch screen
 - 320x480 pixels
 - Wi-Fi (802.11b/g)
 - Nike + iPod support
 - Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
 - 110x61.8x8mm
 - 120g

Mac FORMAT presents

iPad

The Essential Handbook

The world's most awesome guide to the world's most awesome gadget!



**NOW
ON SALE!**
from WHSmiths,
Tesco, Easons and
Borders

Got your hands on an iPad?

Whether you've just bought an iPad or need the perfect gift for the iPad owner in your life, you need to get *iPad: The Essential Handbook*.

It's the definitive guide to the 70 best apps and games, the dozen best accessories and the 50 essential tips for getting the most from Apple's amazing new device. From the same experts who bring you *MacFormat* every month, it's packed with easy-to-understand, authoritative advice!

Available to buy online at
www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/macformatpresents

SUBSCRIBE TODAY AND SAVE 35%

PLUS! Get yourself a LA robe Allure Laptop Sleeve



To subscribe to MacFormat for just £12.72 every 3 months by Direct Debit and get yourself a cool LA robe Allure Sleeve as your welcome gift, call 0844 848 2852 quoting reference P117 or subscribe online at: **www.myfavourite magazines.co.uk/mfc/p117**

Please use the full web address shown to enjoy this special offer.

Contact centre opening times are:
8.00am to 21.30pm weekdays,
8:00am to 16:00pm on Saturdays

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIBERS

Flick to page 105 for some fantastic subscription savings!

>> KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Wireless Keyboard



★★★★★

Price: £56 **Reviewed:** Issue 189

Web: www.apple.com/uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/53760

Key specs: 27x11.5x1.43cm; Bluetooth only; 3x AA batteries; requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

- Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
- Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

"The Wireless Keyboard is superb in every way. It's another design classic from the Apple creative team."

Wacom Bamboo Fun Small ★★★★★



Price: £89 **Reviewed:** Issue 214

Full review: www.techradar.com/637575

Key specs: 1,024 pressure levels; Gestures

- Gesture support, good software bundle
- Expensive

Macally mGlide ★★★★★



Price: £28 **Reviewed:** Issue 212

Full review: www.techradar.com/619206

Key specs: Wireless operation; small form factor

- Perfect match for your Apple keyboard
- It's a little small

>> PRINTERS & ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP640



★★★★★

Price: £187 **Reviewed:** Issue 215

Web: www.canon.co.uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/644919

Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); supports all major memory card formats; on-body printing

- Phenomenal feature package; great print quality
- Weak instructions might confuse newbies

"The mix of stellar print quality and an excellent feature package make the Canon MP640 a great buy."

HP Officejet Pro 8500 ★★★★★



Price: £235 **Reviewed:** Issue 210

Full review: www.techradar.com/603509

Key specs: Printer/scanner/email; 4,800dpi

- Packed with features; great text printing
- Average photo printing; expensive

Samsung ML-2855ND ★★★★★



Price: £218 **Reviewed:** Issue 221

Key specs: Mono laser printer

- Incredible value to run and great print quality
- Elegant, well-realised text and decent images
- Helpful screen to guide you through problems

>> DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display



★★★★★

Price: £649 **Reviewed:** Issue 205

Web: www.apple.com/uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/500220

Key specs: 24-inch LED screen, 1,920x1,200, 16.7 million colours, three self-powered USB ports, iSight camera

- Beautiful colour reproduction; impressive sound; oozes quality
- Display stand needs revamping; only for Macs with Mini DisplayPort

"An incredible piece of kit for Macs with a Mini DisplayPort. Screen quality is first rate, with great consistency."

Samsung 2233SW ★★★★★



Price: £169 **Reviewed:** Issue 213

Full review: www.techradar.com/628604

Key specs: Low-cost SyncMaster monitor

- Excellent value for money
- No speakers

Hanns G Hi221DP ★★★★★



Price: £129 **Reviewed:** Issue 213

Full review: www.techradar.com/500421

Key specs: 22-inch widescreen, 1,680x1,050 res

- A solid performer; good looking
- Terrible built-in audio

>> SPEAKERS/HEADPHONES

Scosche IDR655m



★★★★★

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 223

Web: www.scosche.com

Full review: MF issue 223 group test

Key specs: Frequency response 15Hz-20KHz; weight 11g; cable length 139cm; six pairs of tips and a carry pouch

- Excellent audio quality; inline controls, with volume adjustment
- Felt like they should fit a little deeper in the ear

"Excellently-placed mic and controls, a beautifully lively sound and a comprehensive feature set."

Audio Chi W Series ★★★★★



Price: £70 **Reviewed:** Issue 222

Full review: www.techradar.com/690331

Key specs: 3.5mm jack; adjustable headset

- Rich, deep and detailed sound; comfortable
- Some might prefer earbuds

Revo Blok ★★★★★



Price: £175 **Reviewed:** Issue 209

Full review: www.techradar.com/593649

Key specs: Aux input for all recent iPods

- Rich, deep sound; excellent remote
- Not for iPhone; can't sync with Mac

>> DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon EOS 500D



★★★★★

Price: £570 (body) **Reviewed:** Issue 209

Web: www.canon.co.uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/596771

Key specs: 15.1MP; 4,752x3,168 res; HD recording; card formats: SD, SDHC; file formats: JPEG, RAW

- ⊕ Increased ISO sensor; HD DV recording; 3-inch LCD
- ⊖ High price; no external mic socket for video

"If you're happy to pay for the privilege of high-quality movies, this EOS is a great buy."

Olympus μ Tough 8000



Price: £255 **Reviewed:** Issue 210

Full review: www.techradar.com/603073

Key specs: 12MP; 5.18.2mm lens

- ⊕ Waterproof to 10m; shockproof; good wide angle
- ⊖ Controls are awkward to use

Samsung ST1000



Price: £235 **Reviewed:** Issue 215

Full review: www.techradar.com/644939

Key specs: OS X 10.4 or later

- ⊕ Good pics and movies; great GPS
- ⊖ Too expensive

>> DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Samsung VP-HMX 20C



★★★★★

Price: £375 **Reviewed:** Issue 202

Web: www.samsung.com/uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/528224

Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical and 10x digital zoom

- ⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution
- ⊖ Really need to shop around to find affordable price

"This lightweight HD camera captures high-quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a plus point."

Canon HV30



Price: £1,000 **Reviewed:** Issue 201

Full review: www.techradar.com/468942

Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card

- ⊕ Superb stills and video; better than HDD
- ⊖ Cumbersome to use

Panasonic SDR-S26



Price: £164 **Reviewed:** Issue 207

Full review: www.techradar.com/561668

Key specs: Sensor: 1/8 inch CCD; Compression: MPEG-2

- ⊕ Small enough to fit in coat pocket
- ⊖ Files need converting to play on Mac

>> ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AVM FRITZ!Box 7270



★★★★★

Price: £160 **Reviewed:** Issue 212

Web: www.fritzbox.eu

Full review: www.techradar.com/621127

Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 4x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n; modem supports ADSL and ADSL2; integrated DECT base station

- ⊕ Packed with features, including impressive array of telephony functions
- ⊖ No simultaneous dual band

"The router's advanced traffic-shaping feature really impressed. An extremely high quality piece of kit."

Iomega Home Media



Price: £97 **Reviewed:** Issue 207

Full review: www.techradar.com/577291

Key specs: 500GB; 1x Gigabit Ethernet; 1x USB 2.0

- ⊕ Easy to set up and use; elegant interface
- ⊖ Can't set up playlists

Billion BiPAC P104



Price: £77 **Reviewed:** Issue 207

Full review: www.techradar.com/560834

Key specs: Transfer rate up to 200Mbps

- ⊕ Great alternative to Wi-Fi
- ⊖ Bulky, though this is inevitable

>> STORAGE

My Book Studio II 4TB



★★★★★

Price: £410 **Reviewed:** Issue 212

Web: www.wdc.com

Full review: www.techradar.com/618319

Key specs: 4TB; USB 2.0, FireWire 400/800 and eSATA connectivity; can be reconfigured to different RAID settings

- ⊕ Four terabytes; triple interface
- ⊖ Not exactly cheap; chassis is a little flimsy

"Impressive performance and connection for those who need extra space. Pleasantly styled and easy on the eye."

Buffalo Dualie 500GB



Price: £199 **Reviewed:** Issue 220

Full review: www.techradar.com/678951

Key specs: USB 2.0 and FireWire connectivity

- ⊕ Attractive, robust, space-saving design
- ⊖ Expensive; drive slows when iPhone docked

Apple Time Capsule 2TB



Price: £388 **Reviewed:** Issue 213

Full review: www.techradar.com/629850

Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN

- ⊕ Simultaneous dual band; high capacity
- ⊖ No built-in modem

VISIT US ONLINE



MacFormat.co.uk is your one-stop shop for all things Apple. You'll find the latest Mac kit and software reviews together with news, analysis and a vibrant forum where you can meet like-minded MacFormat readers.

We're on Twitter too! Subscribe to our Twitter feed to keep up to date with what's going on at MacFormat and in the world of Apple. You'll find us at www.twitter.com/MacFormat



DON'T MISS OUR FREE PODCAST!

MacFormat This Week brings you 30 minutes of all the latest news, reviews and tips from the world of Apple every two weeks. Don't miss this resource for all things Mac related!



SIMPLY VISIT THE ITUNES STORE AND ENTER MACFORMAT IN THE SEARCH BOX TO SUBSCRIBE!

»» HOME OFFICE

Apple iWork '09



★★★★★
Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500293
System reqs: G4 (500MHz or faster) processor, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended)

- ⊕ Keynote is a market leader, and the rest of the apps are catching up
 - ⊖ Both Numbers and Pages still lack some basic features
- "The '09 update sees some good features added and some general improvements. Worth it for Keynote alone."**

APP4MAC Twin 1.01 ★★★★★



Price: £25 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611922
System reqs: Power PC G4, G5/Intel Mac
 ⊕ Back up to multiple destinations; easy to use
 ⊖ None

FileMaker Pro 11 ★★★★★



Price: £219 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Full review: www.techradar.com/683719
System reqs: OS X 10.5.7 or later
 ⊕ Easy to use; built-in charts; Quick Find
 ⊖ No image import from Bento

»» SYSTEM UTILITIES

Bjango iStat Menus 3



★★★★★
Price: £11 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.bjango.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/694688
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later. The last version to offer compatibility with OS X 10.4: Tiger was iStat Menus 1.3

- ⊕ Updated interface; simpler installation; great new features
 - ⊖ It's no longer free, though it's certainly worth paying for
- "A solid upgrade to what was already a first-rate add-on for any Mac. A great application that continues to improve."**

Remo Recover Pro Edition ★★★★★



Price: £135 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Full review: www.techradar.com/683721
System reqs: OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM
 ⊕ Straightforward interface; media recovery
 ⊖ Comparatively expensive

Panic Transmit 4 ★★★★★



Price: £24 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Full review: www.techradar.com/694626
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later
 ⊕ Fast transfer speeds; improved options
 ⊖ No significant problems at all

»» VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

Adobe InDesign CS5



★★★★★
Price: £699 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.adobe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/694660
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.5.7 or higher; Multi-Core Intel processor; 2GB hard drive space; 1GB RAM

- ⊕ Column spanning in text frames; the DTP app of choice for professionals
 - ⊖ Expensive and not for beginners
- "Significant new layout and interactive features make this version a compelling upgrade."**

BeLight Swift Publisher ★★★★★



Price: £29 **Reviewed:** Issue 222
Full review: MF Issue 222 group test
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later
 ⊕ Simple, intuitive and effective layout tools
 ⊖ Takes a little time to learn how to use it

Apple Aperture 3 ★★★★★



Price: £169 (£79 upgrade) **Reviewed:** Issue 220
Full review: www.techradar.com/678985
System reqs: 10.5.8 or later, Intel Mac, 1GB RAM
 ⊕ Strong export options and raw handling
 ⊖ No help migrating from Lightroom

»» MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple iPhoto '09



★★★★★
Price: £71 (iLife '09) **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/527969
System reqs: PowerPC G4 or G5, or any Intel Mac; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); Mac OS X 10.5.6 or later; 4GB HDD space

- ⊕ Practical tools, new options to export slideshow, Places a useful addition
 - ⊖ Faces could be better, few cameras have GPS
- "The new features are great, but there's some room for improvement in the Faces facial-recognition facility."**

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★



Price: £408 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/625541
System reqs: Intel Mac; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7
 ⊕ Powerful music studio; great tools; good value
 ⊖ Some minor bugs in the initial release

Anime Studio Debut 6 ★★★★★



Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611940
System reqs: G4+; 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4
 ⊕ Excellent features and tutorials
 ⊖ No texture mapping or lighting

Mac FORMAT

Future Publishing Ltd,
30 Monmouth Street,
Bath BA1 2BW
Tel 01225 442 244
Fax 01225 732 295
macformat@futurenet.com
www.macformat.co.uk
www.twitter.com/MacFormat

EDITORIAL

EDITOR **Graham Barlow**
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
DEPUTY EDITOR **Christopher Phin**
christopher.phin@futurenet.com
REVIEWS EDITOR **Ian Osborne**
ian.osborne@futurenet.com
PRODUCTION EDITOR **Tim Hardwick**
tim.hardwick@futurenet.com
ART EDITOR **Alex Thomas**
alex.thomas@futurenet.com
NEW MEDIA EDITOR **Simon Holland**
simon.holland@futurenet.com

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS

Adam Banks (AB), Andy Dyer (AD), Ben Harvell,
Bill Gallop, Christopher Brennan (CB), Clem
Chambers, Cliff Joseph, Craig Grannell (CG), Dave
Stevenson (DS), Davina Rungasamy, Ian Tromp,
Jonny Evans (JE), Luis Villazon, MacFixit, Mark
Wilson, Rachael D'Cruze, Rob Buckley (RB),
Rod Lawton, Steve Paris, Susie Ochs

ART CONTRIBUTORS

Apple, Adam Banks, Future Photo Studio
(Dave Caudrey, Philip Sowels), Getty Images,
iStockPhoto.com, MagicTorch, Stacey Black

MANAGEMENT

GROUP SENIOR EDITOR **Nick Merritt**
CREATIVE DIRECTOR **Robin Abbott**
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR **Jim Douglas**

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING SALES DIRECTOR **Rob Elms**
rob.elms@futurenet.com
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER **Charlie Said**
charlie.said@futurenet.com
ACCOUNT MANAGER **Robert Williams**
robert.williams@futurenet.com
ACCOUNT MANAGER **Gary Clarke**
gary.clarke@futurenet.com

Want to work for Future?
Visit www.futurenet.com/jobs

ABC 27,242
Jan-Dec 2009
A member of the Audited
Bureau of Circulations



Future produces carefully targeted special-interest magazines,
websites and events for people who share a passion. We publish
more than 170 magazines and websites and 100 international
editions of our titles are published across the world.

Future plc is a public company
quoted on the London Stock
Exchange (symbol: FUTR).

www.futureplc.com

MARKETING

CAMPAIGN MANAGER
Daniel Bruce daniel.bruce@futurenet.com

CIRCULATION

TRADE MARKETING MANAGER
Stuart Brown stuart.brown@futurenet.com
SUBSCRIPTIONS MANAGER
Joanne Coppin joanne.coppin@futurenet.com

PRINT & PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR
Charlene Vaughan
charlene.vaughan@futurenet.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER
Rose Griffiths rose.griffiths@futurenet.com
HEAD OF PRODUCTION
Richard Mason richard.mason@futurenet.com

LICENSING

INTERNATIONAL LICENSING DIRECTOR
Tim Hudson tim.hudson@futurenet.com
Tel: +44 (0)1225 442244
Fax: +44 (0)1225 732275

FUTURE PUBLISHING LIMITED

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR **Stuart Anderton**
stuart.anderton@futurenet.com
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER **Simon Wear**
UK CHIEF EXECUTIVE **Robert Price**
CHIEF EXECUTIVE **Stevie Spring**

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Phone: **0844 848 2852**
Web: www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk
Email: macformat@myfavouritemagazines.co.uk

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE...
Wednesday 18 August 2010

Printed in the UK by
Polestar Group on behalf of Future.
Distributed in the UK by
Seymour Distribution Ltd
2 East Poultry Avenue
London, EC1A 9PT
Tel: 0207 429 4000

Chief Executive: Stevie Spring
Non-executive Chairman: Roger Parry
Group Finance Director: John Bowman
Tel +44 (0)20 7042 4000 (London)
Tel +44 (0)1225 442244 (Bath)

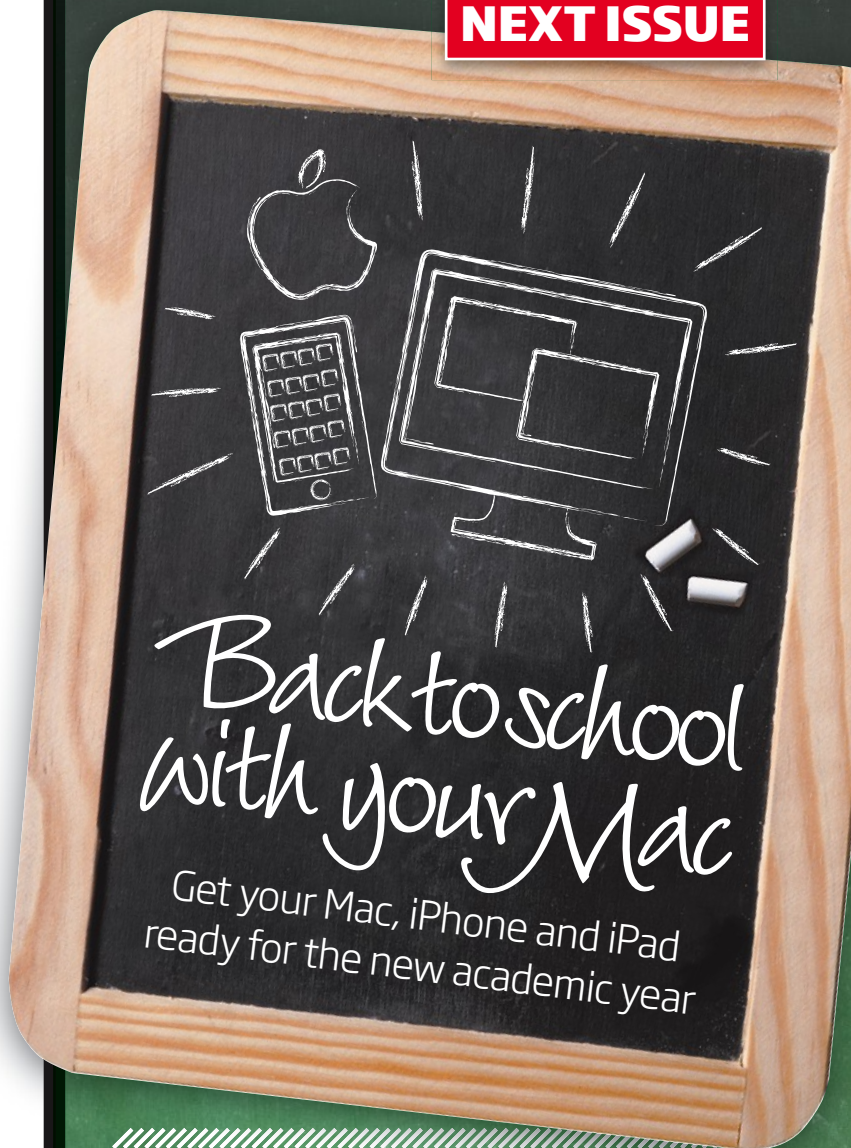
© Future Publishing Limited 2010. All rights reserved. No part of this magazine may be used or reproduced without the
written permission of the publisher. Future Publishing Limited (company number 2008885) is registered in England
and Wales. The registered office of Future Publishing Limited is at Beauford Court, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath BA1 2BW.
All information contained in this magazine is for information only and is, as far as we are aware, correct at the time of
going to press. Future cannot accept any responsibility for errors or inaccuracies in such information. Readers are
advised to contact manufacturers and retailers directly with regard to the price of products/services referred to in this
magazine. If you submit unsolicited material to us, you automatically grant Future a licence to publish your submission
in whole or in part in all editions of the magazine, including licensed editions worldwide and in any physical or digital
format throughout the world. Any material you submit is sent at your risk and, although every care is taken, neither
Future nor its employees, agents or subcontractors shall be liable for loss or damage.



We are committed to only using
magazine paper which is derived
from well managed, certified
forestry and chlorine-free
manufacture. Future Publishing
and its paper suppliers have been
independently certified in
accordance with the rules of the
FSC (Forest Stewardship Council).

recycle
When you have finished with
this magazine please recycle it.

NEXT ISSUE



Which scanner stands out?

6 scanners go head to
head in our group test

DISCOVER HOW TO...

- Enhance your Dock in OS X
- Create PDFs on your Mac
- Make photo books in Aperture

ALL THIS AND MORE!

Contents subject to change

**Mac
FORMAT**
ON SALE
Wednesday
18 August
2010

CLASSIFIEDS

To advertise call Richard Jewels on **020 7042 4265**
or email: richard.jewels@futurenet.com

BROKEN IPHONE?

We are iPhone Repairs & Spares LTD

Dedicated specialists for the Apple iPhone

All iPhone models repaired
12 months warranty on all repairs
Fast turn around
Parts available for DIY repairs
Drop in service available
Visit our website for iPhone accessories
including protective cases, solar chargers
external batteries, in-car accessories and much more
Now repairing Apple iPad's

5 Minute Screen Repairs!

Bring your iPhone 3G / 3GS to us and we will repair within 5 minutes



Broken screens
Audio faults
Signal issues
Power problems
Unlocking
Batteries replaced
Liquid damage
Insurance appraisals

iPhone 24ct
Gold plating
Now available!

We are based in Admirals Offices, The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TZ

Tel: 0871 789 0379

Web: www.iphonerepairsLtd.co.uk

Email: service@iphonerepairsLtd.co.uk

5% discount on all iPhone spare parts ordered from our website www.pda-spares.co.uk. Coupon code: macf5

Apple Mac Spares & Repairs



- New & recycled Apple service parts
- Next day delivery
- Newertech main dealer 
- Trade discounts
- Repair service, uk-wide collection
- Faulty Macs bought, collected & recycled 

thebookyard

www.thebookyard.com 0151 291 6240

Avoid the inevitable

Full protection from coffee, tea and pizza!

The Editors Keys protection covers not only offer superior protection against dust, dirt and grime. They're also perfectly clear, so you its the best protection, you'll never notice.


Coffee Spills




Pizzas and Grease



From just £14.99

www.editorskeys.com

(just go to keyboard skin covers)



 **EditorsKeys™**
EDITING KEYBOARDS & RECORDING EQUIPMENT

To advertise call Richard Jewels on **020 7042 4265**
or email: **richard.jewels@futurenet.com**

CLASSIFIEDS

LONDON

MacAid
75 Mersey Road, London E17 5LA
Tel: 0800 4488 721 Email: info@macaid.co.uk
URL: http://www.macaid.co.uk

- On site support for Home and Business users
- Remote access assistance
- Internet and Network set up
- Application & OS X Tutorials
- Troubleshooting & Problem Solving
- Data Recovery

MacAid
Mac Support for London

THE NORTH

Jennings Computer Services
Scarborough - Tel: 01723 374196
York - Tel: 01904 796580
Email: Sales@jcsitd.co.uk
URL: http://www.jcsitd.co.uk

- Authorised Apple Reseller & Service Centre
- Apple Warranty Repair & Out of Warranty Repair
- Troubleshooting, Fault Finding & Upgrades
- Installations, Networks, Email Solutions • Educational Specialists • Expert Support & Technical Assistance
- Mac Training • Buy Online, Email us or give us a call.

Jennings
COMPUTER SERVICES LTD

LONDON

Albion
London • Basingstoke • Tunbridge Wells
Tel: 0207 212 9090 Email: sales@albion.co.uk
URL: http://www.albion.co.uk

Albion are a leading Apple Premium Reseller and Authorised Service Provider with over 20 years experience. Specialising in the integration of Mac and Windows systems; care & support and Internet/network solutions, they are the **UK's Education and Business I.T. Solutions Expert.**

Albion 

MIDLANDS

SL Electrotech
Unit 6 Loomer Road, Chesterton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, ST5 7QQ
Tel: 01782 563999 Fax: 01782 564127
URL: http://www.slelectrotech.co.uk

- Apple Authorised Service Provider & Reseller
- Fast Turnaround • On-Site & Workshop repair services
- Helpdesk & Remote Support • Showroom
- Konica-Minolta Business Solutions • SONOS Music Systems

SL

AUTHORISED RESELLERS LISTED ABOVE

Apple Sales & Support
In a town near you...

If you need somewhere to purchase or repair your Apple Products then you can find your local dealers here...

KEY TO THE REGIONS

Scotland The North Midlands Wales The East London South West Eire

Apple Certified Technician

 **londonmac**

Apple Macintosh computers and iPods service and repairs

Apple Mac hardware repairs
Hardware & software upgrades
Software troubleshooting
System installation
Data recovery and backup
iPods upgrades and repairs

0845 619 90 09
www.londonmac.com
hello@londonmac.com
71 Clerkenwell Road
London EC1R 5BU

vis

Mac Repairs & Parts
01189 88 66 33
visparts.com

SONOS

**All the music you want.
All over your house.**

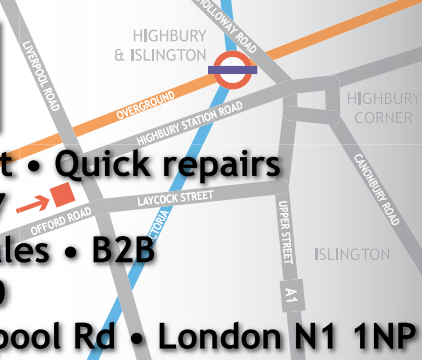


The Sonos Multi-Room Music System lets you play any song, in any room and control it all wirelessly from the palm of your hand.

For more information or to order **01782 563999** sales@slelectrotech.co.uk
www.slelectrotech.co.uk

M R

On-site support • Quick repairs
0207 697 2207
Competitive sales • B2B
0207 697 2230
383-385 Liverpool Rd • London N1 1NP



 **Authorised Service Provider**



Get cash for your old Mac!

Payment within 5 days!
We pay up to **£1,500** for a used Macbook or Mac desktop!
FREE Valuation @ www.trading4u.com/mac

1000 CDs with Booklet+Inlay c.£600
High Quality CDR copies from 51p
5000 Litho printed CDs c.£750
CD/CD-ROM Mastering £70ph
DVDs and Enhanced CDs

Excellent!

Over 23 years experience
Graphic design, colour print
Large and small run specialists
Excellent quality and presentation

RPM
Repeat Performance Multimedia
6 Grand Union Centre
West Row
London W10 5AS
Tel. 020 8960 7222
www.repeat-performance.co.uk

Barcode Creation Software
MBC4.3 - the latest version of MacBarcode
Includes all popular barcode types
Saves as EPS, PDF, TIFF or JPEG
Upgrade to version 4.3 available now!

 **Computalabel**
international

OR...
Buy Barcode Images Online!
EPS PDF TIFF or JPEG images to your instructions from as little as £4.25 each!

www.computalabel.com
sales@computalabel.com

Tel: 0116 270 0881

Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you! Here's a list of the UK & Ireland MUGs

[1] Aberdeen MUG
Aberdeen
davidyearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

[2] Bristol & Bath MUG
Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG
Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG
Blackburn
info@bmug.co.uk
www.bmug.co.uk

[5] Bracknell Forest MUG
Bracknell, Berks
office@bfmuguk.org
www.bfmuguk.org

[6] ClubMac Ireland
Dublin
secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College
Cork
d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
Barrow-in-Furness
contact@macenthusiasts.co.uk
http://www.macenthusiasts.co.uk

[9] Deaf Mac Users
Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG
Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
www.dur.ac.uk/durmac

[11] Edinburgh MUG
Edinburgh
admin@edmug.org.uk
www.edmug.org.uk

[12] Exeter MUG
Exeter
examug@mac.com
www.examug.org.uk

[13] FAMUS (Fife)
Kirkcaldy
davidwlaw@btinternet.com
www.fifedirect.org.uk/famus

[14] Glasgow MUG
Glasgow
glas.mug@mac.com
www.glasnmug.org

[15] Harlech MUG
South Snowdonia
ian@climb8.com

[16] Isle of Wight MUG
Isle of Wight
admin@iowaug.org.uk
www.iowaug.org.uk

[17] Kent & East Sussex MUG
Kent
www.kesnmug.org

[18] London MUG
London
secretary@lmug.org
www.lmug.org.uk

[19] MACUS (Manchester)
Manchester
daviaeger@macunlimited.net

[20] Midlands MUG
Birmingham
group@mmug.org.uk
www.mmug.org.uk

[21] Northern Ireland MUG
Belfast
matt@nimug.org

[22] North West Mac Group
Near Warrington
info@nwmug.co.uk
www.nwmug.co.uk

[23] Norwich MUG
Norwich
norwichmacusergroup@mac.com

[24] Oban MUG
Oban
obanmug@mac.com

[25] OxMUG
Oxford
www.oxmug.org

[26] Potteries MUG
potmug@mac.com
www.potmug.com

[27] Severn MUG
South West
admin@s-mug.com
http://s-mug.com

[28] Southampton Uni
Southampton
trf.106@soton.ac.uk

» MUG OF THE MONTH / South Wales MUG



Welcome to the
South Wales Macintosh User Group

This site is currently under construction, so please bare with us while we get it up and running.

For the time-being you can join the forums [here](#).

The South Wales Mac User Group was last featured in *MacFormat* back in our July 2009 issue. The group still meets on the first Saturday of every month at The Fox & Hounds, Old Church Road, Cardiff. Their website at www.swmug.org.uk was still under construction at time of going to press, but their forums are very active and contain details of the next meeting if you'd like to find out more. You can also use the forums to get answers to any Mac questions you may have.

[29] South Essex MUG
Wickford, Essex
chairman@seal-apple.co.uk
www.seal-apple.co.uk

[30] South Wales MUG
Cardiff
swmug@applewis.biz
www.swmug.org.uk

[31] Sneem MUG
Sneem
sean@smug.ie
www.smug.ie

[32] Stroud Mac User Group
Stroud
jmuy@aol.com

[33] Suffolk Mac User Group
Ipswich
mike@mikekwasniak.co.uk
suffolkmacusergroup.co.uk

[34] Swindon MUG
Swindon
swindonmacusergroup@
googlemail.com

<http://swindonmacusergroup.googlepages.com>

[35] Surrey MUG
Surrey
monigmagr@mac.com

[36] Three Counties MUG
Luton, Bedfordshire
info@3cmug.co.uk
www.3cmug.co.uk

[37] Tunbridge Wells MUG
Tunbridge Wells, Kent
christo.skelton@gmail.com
http://twmug.org.uk/

[38] Wessex MUGs
Fareham, Dorchester,
Bournemouth & Salisbury
enquiries@wamug.org.uk
www.wamug.org.uk

[39] Yorkshire MUG
Doncaster & other towns
ymug@mactalk.info
www.ymug.org

NEW STARTER

START YOUR OWN MUG

If you're planning on starting up a new MUG in your area, or you have recently set one up, let us know and we'll print the details here. Email

macformat@futurenet.com

On the disc

➤ FULL SOFTWARE ➤ EXCLUSIVE DEMOS ➤ ESSENTIAL SHAREWARE ➤ READER OFFERS

➤➤ AUDIO CONVERTER

Music Man 2.7

Convert music between formats



Recent Mac converts may find large chunks of their music collection end with a WMA suffix thanks to a little app

known as *Windows Media Player*. While *iTunes* for Windows can convert WMAs to MP3 by tapping into codecs on Microsoft's OS, its Mac counterpart cannot.

Fortunately, *MacFormat* is giving you the solution for free so you can dispense with the file format frustrations. This handy app can rip, convert and play MP3, WMA, WAV, AAC (M4A, M4B) and Ogg files. You can then burn the results to CD or DVD.

Discount on any Mireth Technology software

Slash 10% off the price of any Mireth app with the coupon code CPN1116188730 at www.mireth.com/cp/offer0734.html.

➤➤ TYPING AID

Typelt4Me 4

Type lazily but more efficiently



Those who regularly use word processors will know all about the feature that predicts words once you've typed the first few letters.

It's incredibly useful at helping to increase the amount of words you can type per minute. *Typelt4Me* takes this one step further by letting you type abbreviations that can expand a word, a phrase, or even several pages worth of text with pictures attached. Trigger AppleScripts so you don't have to sift through a menu or reach for an obscure keyboard combination.

Upgrade to Typelt4Me 5

Apply for a version 4 licence for a 20% saving on the latest version until the end of October 2010. Readers need to email support@ettoresoftware.com to request registration and special offer details.

➤➤ MEDIA UTILITY

iTunes Controller 1.1

Menu bar control for your media



Install this and you'll find your productivity increases. Why? Because you'll no longer have to switch to *iTunes*

when you're in the middle of typing an important document or editing a family movie. If you want to see the name of the track *iTunes* is currently playing, all you need to do is quickly glance at your menu bar in the same way you might look to see what time it is. Other useful features include the ability to cycle through playlists with next and previous buttons.

Upgrade to iTunes Controller 2

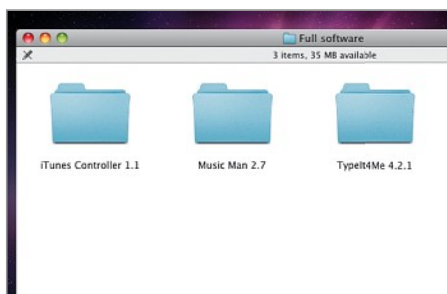
Save \$1 on this app by using the voucher code `macformat2010itc` when you visit: <http://bitpersecond.com/itcupgrade.html>.

➤➤ HOW TO / Install the programs on your disc



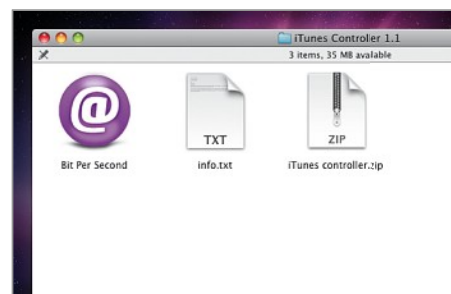
01 Loading the disc

Once you've inserted the disc in your Mac's optical drive and clicked on the disc icon to display its contents, you'll be greeted with this folder. Please make sure you read the disclaimer text file before you progress.



02 The software

Navigate through the folders as you would those on your hard disk. Using the *Finder*, click on the names that correlate with the magazine sections and you'll be greeted with folders for each of the applications.



03 Getting the apps

Each software folder will house at least three icons. The first is an info text file where you can read more about the product. Then comes a webloc site link and, finally, the app itself. Drag it to your desktop to open. ●

ON THE DISC

Mac FORMAT Disc

>> HAVING PROBLEMS?

For further help email support@futurenet.co.uk or call our support team on **01225 822743**. If you have comments please email to Simon Holland, New Media Editor, at simon.holland@futurenet.com

Three full programs plus widgets, tutorials, reviews and freeware

FULL SOFTWARE

iTunes Controller 1.1
Music Man 2.7
TypeIt4Me 4.2.1

IN THE MAG

Features

AppZapper 2.0.1
ArtRage Starter Edition 2.5.2
CandyBar 3.2.2
Cocktail 4.7.5
Delivery Status 5.2.1
Disc Cover 2.3.3
HandBrake 0.9.4
iStat menus 3.02
Last.fm Player 1.5.4.24670
MacUpdate Desktop 5.0.4
NetNewsWire 3.2.7
RipIt 1.5
Socialite 1.2
Spotify 0.4.3.383
SugarSync Manager 1.0.9
SuperDuper! 2.6.2
Things 1.3.4
Transmit 4.0.5
Wallet 3.1.3

QandA

Hugin 2010

Reviews

Home Inventory 2.1.1
MarsEdit 3.0.3

Shareware

Echofon 1.0.3
Image Tricks 3.0.1
Soulver 2.0.2

IN THE MAG

Tutorials

Carbon Copy Cloner 3.3.2
Soulver 2.0.2
SymbolicLinker 2.0v2

SOFTWARE

Recommended

iTunes Controller 2 v2.2
Music Man 3.0.1
TypeIt4Me 5.0.2

Top freeware

BlackFire 1.2.8
Book Hunter 1.0.5
Harmony Break 1.1
IceClean 3.4.3
JAlbum 8.9.1
Permanent Eraser 2.4.2
Remember 1.1
Sketch 1.0b8.6
Transmission 2.01
VLC Media Player 1.1

Widgets

London 2012 Olympics
Countdown 0.1
MailWidget 3.53
The Periodic Table 1.4.2
WordsWorth 1.0

PODCAST

2nd June 2010
16th June 2010



>> FINDING A SERIAL CODE



With the new interface comes a slight adjustment in your route to full product activation. The majority of this software will still require you to register online for activation. But now, you'll need to double-click the webloc '@' icon.

Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but - as with any new software - we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

Future Publishing cannot accept responsibility for any disruption, damage and/or loss of data to your data or computer system that may occur while using this disc, or the programs and data on it. We advise that you consult your network administrator before installing software on a networked Mac.

Coverdisc problems

If you are having difficulties using the MacFormat disc interface or its content, please visit our reader support website at

www.futurenet.co.uk/support. On this regularly updated website, you'll find solutions to numerous commonly reported problems. If, after reading these, you are still experiencing difficulties, then please email our reader support team (support@futurenet.co.uk) or phone 01225 442244 and ask for coverdisc support.

Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We regret that we are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.



© Future Publishing 2010
Not to be sold separately

mini ninjas



**Introducing the world's
smallest heroes!**

OUT NOW FOR MAC

feralinteractive.com



Mini Ninjas © 2010 Square Enix Ltd. Published by Square Enix Ltd. Developed by IO Interactive A/S. Mini Ninjas and the Mini Ninjas logo, Square Enix and the Square Enix logo are trademarks of Square Enix Ltd. IO Interactive and the IO logo are trademarks of IO Interactive A/S. Mac and the Mac logo are trademarks of Apple Inc. registered in the U.S. and other countries. Feral and the Feral logo are trademarks of Feral Interactive Ltd.

SQUARE ENIX

 **IO-Interactive**





Brighton

12-13 Brighton Place
The Lanes BN1 1HJ

Hove

255 Old Shoreham Rd
Hove BN3 7ED

Bournemouth

78 Old Christchurch Rd
Bournemouth BH1 1LR

St. Albans

11 The Maltings Shopping Centre
St. Albans, Hertfordshire

Guildford

27 Friary Street.
Guildford GU1 4EH

Chichester

51a South Street
Chichester PO19 1DS



solutions inc.



0844 8751 610

www.solutions-inc.co.uk



Discover our wide range of high-quality iPad and iPhone 4 cases and accessories.
Test-drive in-store or buy online from our new online store: www.solutions-inc.co.uk/store



Griffin Elan Passport

High quality microsuede lined folio iPad case with card slots
£35.00 inc. vat



Incipio Kickstand

Unique tri-fold design- case and stand in one. Available in black
£25.00 inc. vat



Dicota PadCover

Stylish nylon/leather slip case for iPad. Available in blue or pink
£40.00 inc. vat



Beez La Robe Allure

Low-Resilience soft fleece-lined case. Also available in brown/black.
£25.00 inc. vat



Tucano Elements

The iPad version of our most popular sleeves, also available in black
£29.00 inc. vat



Hard Candy Bubble

Well padded zip-up iPad case. Also available in black
£44.00 inc. vat



Cygnett Glam

Unique glossy book-style protective case for iPad
£35.00 inc. vat



Invisible Shield for iPad

Our best-selling screen-protection system now for iPad
Screen protector £22.00 inc. vat
Full body protector £31.00 inc. vat



Cygnett Molecule

Silicon case for iPhone 4 with perforated back exposing interchangeable swatches.
£20.00 inc. vat



Cygnett Snap Duo

two-pack of bumpers for iPhone 4 with front and back screen protection
£20.00 inc. vat



Incipio DRX

Two part hard/soft iPhone case Also available in black/grey
£25.00 inc. vat



Incipio Feather

Light-weight, durable hard case for iPhone 4. Choice of colours
£19.00 inc. vat

AmpliTube iRig

Easy-to-use instrument interface adapter and guitar and bass tone mobile software in one. Just plug the iRig into your mobile device, plug your instrument into the input jack, plug in your headphones, amp or powered speakers, download AmpliTube for iPhone free and start rocking with world-class guitar and bass tones in the palm of your hand.
£24.00 inc. vat



Blue Mikey 2

Brand new version of the stunning iPad, iPhone and iPod condenser microphone from Blue. Features a line-input as well as three gain settings for recording almost anything. Includes a new 230 degree rotating design and a headphone jack for monitoring recordings.
£69.00 inc. vat **Pre-order online today**



Beyerdynamic T 50 p Headphones

The Beyerdynamic T 50 p opens up new dimensions with its highest demands in sound quality and superior materials. Beyerdynamic's efficient newly developed Tesla technology transformers provide extraordinarily precise and detailed sound. Whether on your way to work, college or travelling by train or airplane, the circumaural T 50 p shields external noise with its closed design. With its slimline shape marked by simplicity and elegance, the smooth lightness of the T 50 p is also a winner for its appearance. There is no longer anything standing in the way of ultimate music enjoyment on portable devices, wherever you may be. iPod, iPad & iPhone compatible. **£239.00 inc. vat**

Visit www.solutions-inc.co.uk/store for more high-quality headphones from Beyerdynamic



Well established

Solutions inc. is one of the most established and respected Apple UK partners with 17 years experience.



Win £100

store vouchers
Subscribe to our newsletter online for entry in to our monthly prize draw.



Secure on-line transactions

Our online store features a 3D Secure check-out page. Giving you peace of mind and security.



Free UK mainland delivery

Great availability, faster delivery

Over 700 products in store 7 days a week plus a further 500 on our brand new revamped online store 24/7.



Remote Control Support

The fastest way to get instant expert support for just £1 per minute.
www.solutions-inc.co.uk/support 01273 200900

Errors and omissions exempt. All prices correct at time of print. For up-to-date pricing, visit www.solutions-inc.co.uk/store